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Footprints along the Stoney

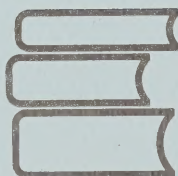


A history of Armena and Baldenstein areas

ALBERTA BOOK PROJECT
1987

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Footprints along the Stoney



A history of Armena and Baldenstein areas

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Dedication

Around the turn of the last century a handful of hardy pioneers and their families were already staking claims to the land along Stoney Creek, thus beginning the settlement of the area which later became known as the Armena-Baldenstein district.

With its journey back through time, this History Book provides a glimpse into their struggle for survival, delineates their hopes and expectations, displays their faith and dedication in founding and establishing educational and religious institutions, their endurance and self-sacrifice in hewing out farms in this virgin wilderness to set up homes for their families.

To these our pioneers, who dared to step forward into the unknown of this new land, prepared to accept the toil and hardships of carving a new life out of this wilderness, we dedicate this book, "Footprints along the Stoney".

To those who came later and also gave of their energies to continue the betterment of these communities so well exemplified by the pioneers we also make this dedication.

For present and future generations may this history provide greater understanding and appreciation of the past and an inspiration for the future.



Footprints

There are footprints along the Stoney
And all the country wide
Of men and women, boys and girls
Who made those steps with pride.
The challenge now before us lies
To take the yoke upon us
Preserve this land in love and truth
And leave staunch prints behind us.

By Judith Thronson

Acknowledgements

We wish to express our gratitude to the organizations and many individuals who helped us to make the publication of this book a reality. It would be impossible to thank individually each person who has contributed, but we especially like to mention:

1. New Horizons of Health and Welfare
2. Alberta Provincial Archives, Edmonton
3. Our typists, Dena Grue, Lyn Lyseng, and Bonnie Wolfe
4. Carol Olson Elkow for the sketch on the cover of the book
5. Camrose Library
6. Camrose Museum
7. Esso Resources

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9. Alberta Wheat Pool for local records
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12. Radio Station C.F.C.W.
13. Camrose Canadian
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15. Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs
16. Heritage Magazine
17. "A History of Alberta" by James MacGregor
18. Elaine Olson for sketch of Swenson farmstead.
19. Alberta Culture

Preface

It is with pride in our forebears and the esteem with which we honor them; it is with humble gratitude that we, a nucleus in the Armena-Baldenstein area, decided to record their history in the chronicles of time.

On November 19, 1980 nineteen interested senior citizens met at the Chester Thronsdon home to discuss the possibilities of compiling a history book. Kathy Sinclair from New Horizons of Health and Welfare was present to share information as to procedures, grants etc.

On November 26, we met at the Bennie Lomnes home and the following board of directors was chosen: Bennie Lomnes, Herman Atema, Mary Grue, Minnie Soderstrom, Elmer Olson, Dorothy Lyseng, Nelvin Thronsdon, Esther Wenig, Irene Moore, and Judith Thronsdon. The officers elected were: Bennie Lomnes — president, Irene Moore — treasurer, and Judith Thronsdon — secretary. To each member of the committee a contact area was assigned.

We are sorry to report that two of our friends who

were with us at our first meeting did not live to see our book published. We extend our condolences to the family of the late Vernon Lyseng and also to the Stewart Cardiff family.

We wish our president, Bennie Lomnes, a speedy recovery. He was stricken with paralysis while on vacation in Hawaii in February. Our vice-president, Herman Atema, is presiding until Bennie is able to be with us again.

In our book "Footprints along the Stoney" we have tried to cover a span of time from 1894, when our first settlers arrived, until the present time, 1982, and includes the area not covered by the Bittern Lake, Hay Lakes, Kingman, and Round Hill history books. We are sorry if we have missed anyone. We did our best to contact everybody by advertising in the Camrose Canadian, the Booster, Heritage Magazine, Western Producer, C F C W radio station, by telephone, mail, and person to person.

We apologize for any mistakes which you might find in our book. We can assure you we have done our very best with your help and the information gleaned from other sources. It is not one person's



Board of Directors of Armena-Baldenstein Historical Society. Standing, Left to Right: Mary Grue, Minnie Soderstrom, Irene Moore, Judith Thronsdon, Esther Wenig, Dorothy Lyseng. Sitting: Elmer Olson, Herman Atema, Bennie Lomnes, Nelvin Thronsdon.

opinion or effort. It is the combined record of those who pioneered here and of their descendants who followed in the footprints which they made along the Stoney.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all who contributed stories and pictures to make our book so very interesting. Thanks to all who have helped in some way or another. Without all of you and your help this feat could not have been accomplished. We hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed producing it.

Our meetings have been times of concentration and sometimes frustration but we have also had fun. Chris Knight, representative from Friesen Publishers, added a bit of spice to our meetings as well as valuable information. It was good to have Kathy Sinclair with us periodically too. Thanks Kathy and Chris.

To all we say, "Thank You, and good reading!"
Directors of Armena-Baldenstein
Historical Society



Bonnie Wolfe, typist.



Lyn Lyseng, typist.



Dena Grue, typist.

Armena History Book Club,
Armena, Alberta.
T0B 0G0

Dear Friends:

It is with genuine pleasure that I congratulate you for compiling a book on the early pioneers of the Community of Armena. This book will be a permanent document that will enshrine for future generations the strong sense of community and tremendous acts of achievements that have been accomplished by the pioneers of the Armena district.

This rich story about the trials and tribulations, the heartaches and the joys, struggles and achievements, will forever grant to future generations a sense of identity with the past and act as a compass for the future.

May I commend all of those who have contributed so generously to the compiling of this material and hope that it will be a stimulus for fond memories for many of our senior citizens and an inspiration to our youth.

With hearty congratulations and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
Arnold Malone, M.P.
Crowfoot.

Gordon Stromberg, M.L.A.

May I take this opportunity to extend Congratulations on behalf of the Province of Alberta and the people of the Camrose Constituency to those people who have laboured long and hard in researching and editing this outstanding History of the life and times of the Pioneers of the Armena and Balenstein District.

It will be with considerable gratitude now and in the future years that this history was recorded before it was lost forever.

Footprints Along the Stoney tells so well of the sacrifice of an opening up of a new land. The tears, the sweat and the triumph of our pioneers who not only built the foundation of the prosperity that my generation now take for granted and in so doing they also built a Province and a Nation.

Gordon Stromberg
Member of the Alberta Legislature
for the Camrose Constituency.



Les Coykendahl.

It was once said time waits for no man. And how true! Time of the late 1800's and early 1900's will have the most impact on the history of Armena and Camrose-North district. Very few people living here today can give testimony to this history verbally.

As part of this history and being familiar with the community, I feel it is very important that we can hand this history over to future generations.

I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to all people who have contributed to making this book possible and offer best wishes to the readers for many hours of enjoyable reading.

Councillor Leslie Coykendall
Division #7, County of Camrose No. 22



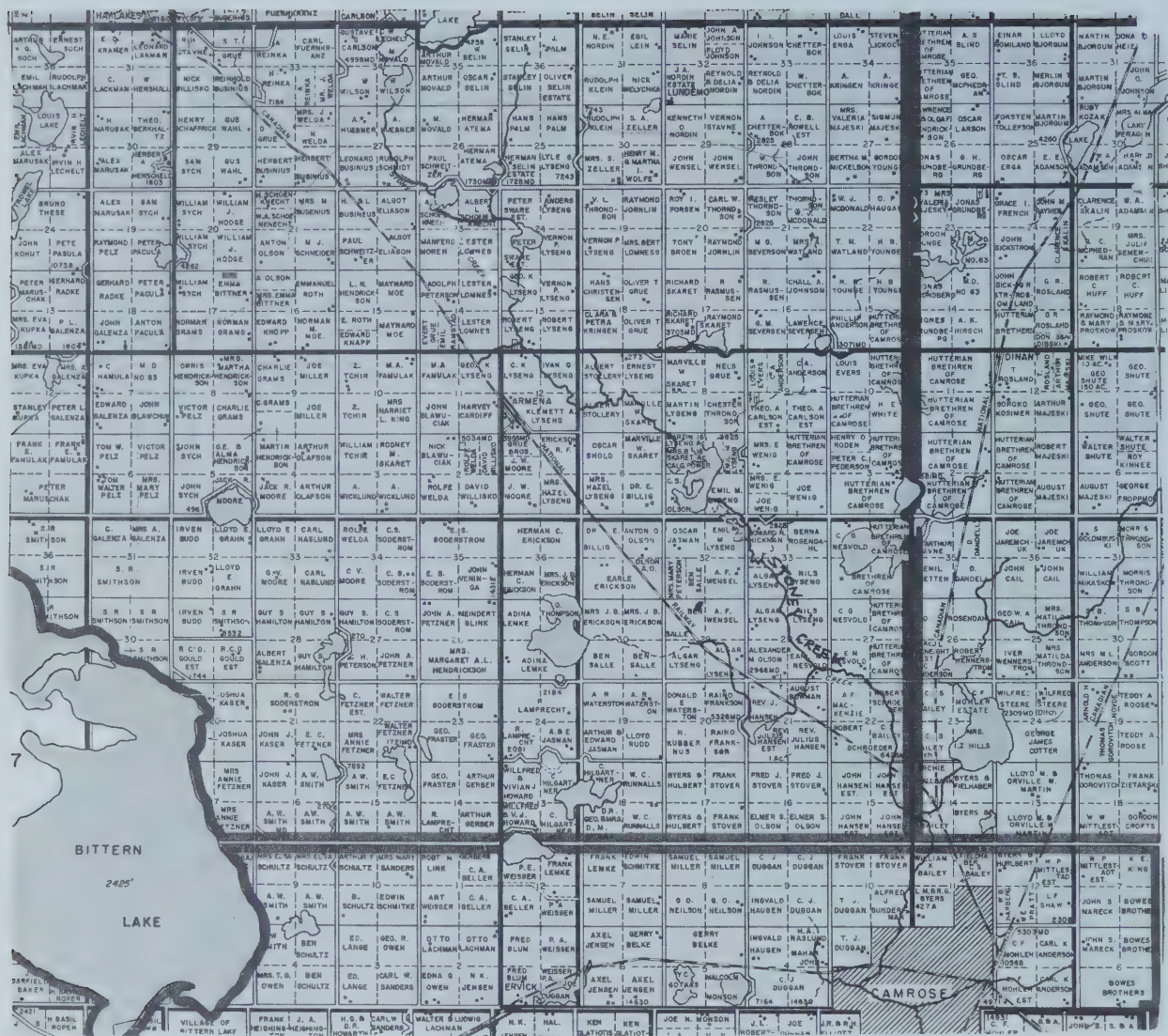
William Banack.

I was impressed to hear that citizens of the Armena and Camrose North district have taken the time to write a history of the Armena and Camrose North area, and I welcome the opportunity to extend congratulations to you, both personally and on behalf of the Council of the County of Camrose No. 22.

Too often, we find we are a bit late in collecting all the material needed to compile a book of this nature. I always say its never too late to document experiences of our ancestors so that the future generations can read the history of our early settlers, of their hardships and accomplishments. Many names in this book will be carried on for many more generations. I know this book will be placed with other history books of other areas of the county and will be circulated to each school so that our young people can have the opportunity to know the history of other areas within the County.

Congratulations to Armena and Camrose North and district for your fine achievements. I'm sure you will feel pride at the history of your community.

William Banack
REEVE, County of Camrose No. 22



The History of Armena

Introduction

by Herman Atema

"This tract is unsurpassed in the North West for its capacity to grow wheat as the soil is rich, the surface is almost level," so wrote John Macoun in 1879 about this general area. Mr. Macoun was hired by the Canadian Pacific railway to assess the natural resources of this area through which they proposed to run their first transcontinental railway. His views were highly respected as he had considerable experience in this field.

He also described the natural beauty of the area in these glowing terms: "The country became picturesque, being studded with poplar copse wood — grassy slopes and small lakelets of pure water in and around which sported numerous flocks of ducks and geese giving animation to this beautiful panorama."

The watershed of the Stoney Creek lies within the region John Macoun speaks so flatteringly. In turn, the area covered by this book lies wholly within the Stoney Creek watershed.

His assesment of the region proved to be accu-

rate. In earlier times the main crop was wheat as he predetermined, but today coarse grains predominate. Cattle have always been a mainstay. In order to help stabilize farm income through good and bad times, mixed farming was practiced by everyone. Every farm family milked cows and sold cream. "It buys the groceries" was an oft heard comment. Today the trend is towards specialization. It simplifies farming but lacks the economic security of mixed farming. There is the need for government hand outs at times, something unheard of in earlier times. The Pioneers were self sufficient.

Now to give attention to the namesake waterway that permeates this area. The Stoney is not a stream of note, in fact it does not even earn a place on most maps, nevertheless it does earn space in our book.

From its main source, Little Hay Lake, it flows east fortified by a series of drainage ditches. It then turns south and finds its way through the southern point of Beaver Hills. The creek then enters the rather level countryside which is typical of the watershed. As it advances, it blossoms into small lakelets every mile or two as though it were pausing to rest. Further along, the Lyseng reservoir is a larger body of water in its path. This was enlarged by a man made dam together with dykes to stabilize the Camrose water supply. Now it supplies water for oilfield injection. In the nineteen twenties, a series of ditches and natural runways drained water from the Miquelon Lakes entering the creek at this point. Continuing its south easterly course to the Battle River, its flow is stemmed by a man made dam which created Mirror Lake in Camrose. During spring run off and rainy spells the excessive water cascades over the spillway and flows through beautiful Jubilee Park cutting an ever depending ravine through the landscape on its way to its mouth.

The Stoney together with its many tributaries has lost some of its earlier charm. In places its banks have been denuded of trees due to the intensive demands of agriculture. Other places ditches have been gouged to short cut the creek thus avoiding extra



Pretty Hill as seen from south, 1981.

culverts or to straighten out a road. Missing today from the early scenes are the wooden bridges where children loved to loiter intrigued by the magic of the rushing water. Where high spirited young horses urged on by their driver shied belly to belly across the bridge worried by the guard rails and hollow sound under their hooves.

Most of the time this was a tranquil stream, sometimes completely drying up during dry summers. At times of course it became a fast flowing stream. One of the pleasurable benefits missing today that the early settlers enjoyed was spawning time when the creek teemed with fish. Many stories are told about the large catches. Damming of the creek apparently is the main reason there are no fish today.

As this fertile valley is relatively stone free the name of the creek is derived from a different source than it implies. Therefore, as close as can be ascertained it is named after the Assiniboiné Indians later known as Stoney. This area was home to them.

This book covers the stories of the early settlers and all those that came after to help develop this land. It is only fair to remember the earlier residents, the Indian people whose footprints first made impressions along the Stoney. Those who were so rudely uprooted from this region and elsewhere no doubt loved this land and knew it intimately. As there seems no way to acquire their individual histories, it is appropriate to give some space in this book to them.

Although the Indian Society was not a peaceful one, nevertheless they seemed to adapt well. It was not until the white man came in the form of fur traders and explorers that the end of their way of life became apparent. The introduction of the horse and gun made their skirmishes and warfare much more violent.

The Blackfoot Nation claimed all the land from the United States border to the North Saskatchewan River. The Assiniboinés and Crees being pushed westward by the advance of the whiteman, contested the right of the Blackfoot to the country north of the Battle River of which the Stoney Creek watershed is an integral part. There were constant raids and skirmishes where women and children were indiscriminately killed. It has been said there is hardly a section in this area that did not hear the screams of fleeing widows and the cries of stricken children.

At earlier times the prairies teemed with buffalo so the Indians had an abundant life style. In the 1850's and on, this great resource was depleted to near extinction, which led to hunger and privation. The introduction of booze brought further depredations to this once self sufficient people. Disease inadvertently brought in by the white man, especially small pox, further depleted their numbers. It

was reported that half the Indians in Alberta died of this disease. History records the death of almost an entire group of Crees camped on Pretty Hill. This hill is located at about the centre of the territory covered by this book and is known by that name today. The subjugation of the Indian people in Western Canada was accomplished with a minimum of violence, thanks to the Northwest Mounted Police. This was in stark contrast to the manner it was handled in the United States. The bloody massacres, raids and general hostilities were so fierce that it has been the basis for many Hollywood films. The Riel Rebellion in 1885 was really the only major war between the white man and Indian in Western Canada, and in that the Canadian Militia had a major part. There was no fighting in this area but things were very tense. This was the last Indian uprising. Since then the Indian and white man have tried to live together but it hasn't been easy. Some have assimilated into our society. It is well to be conscious of the fact that although they did not develop this land, nevertheless they left us a legacy. That legacy was pure air, unadulterated lakes, rivers and streams, the virgin black soil untainted by weeds or chemicals. They left as they found it.

It was just ten years after the last conflict between the Indians and white man that footprint impressions of another people were made along the Stoney. It was in the mid eighteen nineties after the Dominion Government opened this area of the North West Territories to homesteading, that an influx of land seekers began. Lured by the prospect of "free" homestead land, came those who intended to make their homes in this new land, the true pioneers.

At first in the eighteen nineties it was just a trickle with the Grue families, Ole Movold, John Moe, John Broen, Ed Thompson and others as the forerunners. Then after the turn of the century came a great influx. The Lysengs, Hendricksons, Olsons, Thronsons, Andersons, filed homesteads. Other pioneers such as Ditmanson, Rosendahl, Kubernes, Lomnes, Nordstrom, Skaret, Ericksons, Kringen, Grundberg, Skogman, Severson and others came. They stayed and carved homes out of the wilderness. To these pioneers a debt of gratitude is owed. This book will recognize this debt by recording their individual histories, concentrating chiefly on the period of their lives spent in the Stoney Creek watershed.

Lundemo Post Office and Store

Emigrating from Trondheim, Norway to Sioux City, Iowa in 1882, John and Mary Waldum arrived in North America. From there they moved their home to Edmonds County, South Dakota where their only child, Julia, was born on September 27, 1886.



Sketch of Lundemo Post Office.



John Waldum, 1880 Wedding picture.



Mary Waldum, 1880 Wedding picture.

In May of 1898 the Waldums loaded all of their possessions, including animals, machinery and household goods, aboard a cattle car headed for Alberta. Arriving in Wetaskiwin in the middle of a very dry spring one recollection was that Pipestone Creek was easily walked across. Although it was a dry spring the rains came in September and they didn't see the sun for a month.

The Waldums lived about three miles North of Armena for one year and then moved to N.E. 30-48-20 where they homesteaded.

One of the earliest recollections of the time was an Indian supper they saw at a nearby Indian camp. It consisted of muskrats, tied by their tails and hanging over a stick in a large kettle.

The Lundemo Store and Post Office was started on John Waldum's land in 1905. John ran the store and also made the two day trip by wagon, to Wetaskiwin for mail and groceries which were purchased through Roper and Ladell.

One of the main commodities used to trade for groceries was butter, but often times the butter was so rancid, that it was dumped after the people left.

The first mail hauler between Bittern Lake and Lundemo was Harold Parsons who made regular trips with a team of horses. In later years, John picked up the mail, first in Bittern Lake and then Kingman.

John and Mary Waldum were also talented in other ways. John spent many hours mending clocks for neighbours. Mary was also very talented when it came to spinning and knitting. Prizes were taken for her spinning and she could knit a complicated pattern without instructions.

Julia Waldum attended Thordenskjold School and was confirmed at the Lutheran Church on May 1, 1901. On February 13, 1911 she married Frank Johnson at Lundemo. They lived at Third Miquelon Lake, when they were first married. Three of their seven children were born there.



Taken in front of remains of first Post Office and store at Lundemo. Left to right: Frank Johnson, Arlet (Johnson) Reed, Helen Christianson (great-niece of Mary Waldum, from Minnesota), Elsie Lee (niece of Mary Waldum, from Minnesota), John Johnson, Marlene Lee (Minnesota), and Andrew Erickson (brother of Mary Waldum, from Minnesota).



Trees marking site of Lundemo Post Office.

In 1916 to 1917, the Lundemo store was closed and the Post Office was moved into the Waldum home.

In 1929, Mr. Sealund of Kingman took over the Post Office when John Waldum died. He ran the Post Office for a year and then Ralph and Fanny Hatfield took it over.

The Post Office was then moved to the Hatfield home, south of the Waldums, where they continued to operate it until it was closed in 1948.

Mary and John Waldum have fifty-one living descendants, most of whom are living in Alberta.

“Newcomers” Visit Waldums in 1905

One warm July day the family set out. Through bushes and thickets, along one crooked path they went until they met another path that was better, and then at last they came upon the track for two wheels. Suddenly their two miles of walking brought them in front of the place.

They looked at the little house of small round logs. Through its sod roof a black chimney stuck up, held upright by an iron wire fastened to each of the four log corners of the house. This was the dwelling place.

“Are there truly people living here?” queried Mother when she first saw it. No doubt most of the Swedish newcomers had wondered how people could truly live in such a small frugal cottage, but when the amicable housewife greeted them at the door with a hearty welcome and they stepped inside, they saw otherwise.

That little hut was parted into two rooms. The first was called the kitchen. It held a little iron stove, a little table and a chair, and shelves along the walls for dishes and household utensils. The entrance door

was located on the west side and a little window set in the east wall. The low ceiling and the walls were covered with clean newspapers and over the shelves hung gingham curtains trimmed with light colored stripes.

The other room which was a little bigger was called the dining room, guest room, and bedroom all in one. In the southeast corner stood a homemade bed of boards topped with a clean patchwork cover. In the northeast corner was the shelf and a clothes cupboard hidden by a colored overhanging. A Singer sewing machine stood in the southwest corner with the clockshelf fastened above. The dining room table stood along the west wall. A little table in front of the window on the south side between the bed and the sewing machine was filled with all sorts of plants, among them a big myrtle. Along with some chairs, that comprised the furniture. Overall rested the comfort of home which didn't exist in many bigger and more modern dwellings.

After coffee was served and they chatted about various experiences, the host invited the guests to see the store. Father had already been there twice before. It was the second time that he was bidden by the operator to bring his family for this visit.

About a hundred meters distant they saw its door and window facing west. Alongside the front steps, on a raised support of boards nailed together, lay a couple of barrels and two measures of a liter's size having similar taps.

Inside were the shelves full of different kinds of things; shoes, cloth, spats, combs, toothpicks, tobacco, snuff, pocket knives, chocolate, candy, perfume, medicine such as "Peruna", "Kuriko", "Minniard's Liniment", "Painkiller", hairbands, caps, shirts, overalls, hats, and a hundred different small things such as pins, pepper, inkpens, and writing material, up to the bigger necessities such as flour, salt, sugar, and coffee.

On the hooks and nails in the ceiling and walls were hung roast pans, pots, milk pails, jugs, hay forks, spades, shovels, and traps of different sizes.

The counter occupied the central position on the floor. One end held the scales while on the other end lay the rolls of wrapping paper. Under the counter stood the barrels of dried apples, fresh apples, oranges, rice, sago, beans, peas, and boxes of raisins, prunes, peaches, and pears. On the other side of the counter a row of kegs contained different sorts of nails.

Their host now explained the need for such a store:

The newcomers were all poor and money was lacking to pay in cash for what they required. Neither did they own any conveyance to travel some forty

miles to Wetaskiwin, nor the twenty-five miles to the English storekeeper by the lake, and besides, there they would have the problem of communicating in the English language. So they came here by foot with their butter and eggs and muskrat skins to trade for their coffee, sugar, tobacco, snuff, raisins, rice, salt, and other provisions.

As time went, the newcomers increased in numbers and so did the number of pounds of butter traded in and the list of necessities grew longer and longer. So one day when Waldum arrived at the Englishman's store with his load of butter, it took the whole day to reload purchases to take back in exchange.

"I think I'll send you back with all my store!" exclaimed the Englishman. The result was that one day a short time later, he fixed a per cent wage for Mr. Waldum's sales to the newcomers.

And so it was that Mr. Waldum needed a store. Swedish newcomers cut and hewed the slab-sided logs, and a Swedish newcomer constructed the building, measuring on the outside five meters by four and one-half meters (16'8" x 14'8") with a doorway height of six and one-half feet.

By degrees it got to be packed full. The customers' eyes became wide open with surprise as they saw the multitude of goods that was packed together in that little room.

Here the Swedish newcomers got to buy their needs. If there was something which the operator didn't have on hand, it was just to say so and on their next visit to Lundemo it would be there. For many years that store was known in the community for buying with Swedish pounds of butter, eggs, and other things for furnishing the settlers with their daily needs.

(N.B. The writer of this article, the late Gerda Eriksson, later wrote that the Waldums had there house rebuilt in 1907. Thanks to Mr. William Zeller, who presently (in 1981) owns the farm, for verifying the measurements of the store which was so well built about 1905.)

Memoirs Of The Early Days of Lundemo by Fanny Hatfield

The settlement of Lundemo was named by Postmaster John Waldum, who had come from South Dakota in May, 1898. He settled here and named the spot for his post office after his home town in Norway. When he arrived here from Wetaskiwin, there were only trails to travel on. It was more than thirty miles and often those trails were flooded.

Mr. Waldum carried the mail in a barrel, from Wetaskiwin the first years. He would bring it for anybody along the way, who asked him. When he arrived at the homesteader's shack, the contents of

the barrel would be dumped out and sorted. Oftentimes the homesteader was careless about putting the mail back in the barrel, to Waldums annoyance.

Rarely did a man set out alone on trips, rough storms would come up frequently, especially in winter. The cold winters were a terrible handicap as was the deep snow. One time, the temperature went down to 62° below zero, F.

Bit by bit, the country became settled; the Thronson and Lyseng families arrived. A Post Office was started at Bittern Lake also.

As did many other settlers, Mr. and Mrs. Waldum and their daughter, Julia, lived in a log house. When we first arrived in 1919, we nearly perished but "stayed with it". We also lived in a log house on our quarter-section, SE 30-48-20 W4, for thirteen years before we built a frame house.



Mary Waldum on her 70th birthday.

The Waldums kept the Post Office for many years until he suffered a paralytic stroke, and died a day later, in 1928. He was buried in Bethlehem Church Cemetery with a large number of friends and relatives in attendance. The Post Office was closed for only a few days and then the Kingman mail driver, Mr. Dettwiler, sorted the mail as soon as he arrived on Mondays and Fridays, as usual. An elderly gentleman, Mr. Sealand from Kingman, came to run the office, but only stayed a month before he resigned because it was too lonesome.

In 1928, the Post Office was moved to our house and we continued with it until 1949 when we sold out and moved to Edmonton. Our salary was \$100.00 per year. When we left, the Post Office at Lundemo was closed.

Thronson School was built about four miles south and east and following that Brandland School was built about three miles north of the Post Office as many families had moved into the area. A teacherage was built soon after.

Hamlet of Armena

by Bennie Lomnes

The earliest settlers in the Armena area were certainly isolated as far as the outside world was concerned. All supplies and mail were hauled by team and wagon or sleigh from Wetaskiwin, the nearest railway point. This meant a three or four days journey, with kind settlers along the way supplying food and shelter for both man and beast. These trips were usually taken in turns by neighbors, who would become the postman as well as the purchaser of supplies for much of the community. Sharing was really a way of life and very necessary.

After its establishment in 1905, Camrose became the post office and trading center. This was a great improvement for the settlers as a trip to Camrose and return could be done in one day.

When the Canadian Northern Railway was built through the Stoney Creek watershed in 1911, a siding was laid out on the SW 12-48-21, a siding without a name. This siding lay within the Thordenskjold School District but Thordenskjold as a name for the hamlet everyone expected to be built here was thought unsuitable for two reasons. Firstly, for anyone but a Scandinavian, Thordenskjold was hard to pronounce, and secondly the word was very difficult to spell. It is said (how authentic this is I don't know) that a letter was sent to the Provincial Government asking for a name for the siding. Others say it was the railway company that was contacted. Whoever it was suggested the name Armena and that's the name it has had ever since.

"Armena is a village which was erected on the CNR (Canadian Northern Railway) in 1915. At that time it was part of L.I.D. No. 457 which was formed December 23, 1912, by an order in council. On March 1, 1918 it became M.D. No. 457 (Lloyd George). It merged with M. D. Melrose No. 426 and part of M. D. Parkland No. 456 to become M. D. Camrose No. 427. This merger took place on December 6, 1943 under the authority of a ministerial order. The area was renumbered in April, 1945 to become M. D. Camrose No. 63, and there were

alterations of boundaries in April, 1948, January, 1952, December, 1954, January, 1955, and April, 1955. It became County of Camrose No. 22 in January, 1955." — Courtesy of Provincial Archives —

In 1915, a store was built here by Mr. Carter. He named it "The Armena General Store". It was located west of the store built later by John Walker. Mr. Carter shortly after that was given the Post Office, a great boon to the area. During the next seven years this business changed hands several times, being owned by Ted Walkameyer, Alfred Anderson, and H. H. Gurly. It was during Mr. Gurly's ownership that the store was totally destroyed by fire.



Raynold didn't come today.

The following account was written by John Walker who in 1922 had married Mabel Hendrickson:

"After our marriage, Mabel and I went to Ferintosh to run a store for K. W. Tanner. We had been there about a year when our folks, from Armena, came to Ferintosh to see if we would be interested in building a store in Armena as there hadn't been one since the fire in 1922. With the help of Knut Lyseng we decided to embark on the new venture. We found out that by going to Millet we could get lumber (shiplap, etc.) for, I believe \$20.00 a thousand feet. When the neighbors heard this, they got together and offered to take teams of horses and help me haul the lumber from there. We had four or five teams.

"That year everything looked like a bumper crop as wheat stood five feet high in places. But one night, the night of the hailstorm, everything was lost from Big Hay Lake through Armena and Dinant and on for a strip two to three miles wide. The fields looked as if they had been cultivated. Almost all windows facing to the west were broken. This was not a very good outlook for starting a new business.

"I made a deal with Ed. Hendrickson that on good days I would help him try to get together some feed from what was left of his crop and on other days he would help me build. That's how the store was

built. When we came to the shingling, the whole neighborhood came to help and we were done in one day.

"We opened the store for business in September of 1923. We were given a Post Office and received mail daily by C.N.R. trains. Things started to move along.

"As time went on we made a living with the store, but we found it to our advantage to take on other small duties. I bought a heavy safe from Martin Lyseng and became paymaster for the elevator companies, United Grain Growers, Searle and Alberta Pool. This was also the beginning of radio and we had an Atwater Kent radio with a horn speaker and a wire outside for an aerial. I got the job of taking the grain prices broadcast, every day at noon, from Calgary. For this we received, from each grain elevator, 75 cents to a dollar per month. I also became Commissioner of Oaths.

"When we opened the store we purchased gasoline and coal-oil by the barrel and sold it a gallon at a time, measured out with a tin measure. As time went on we purchased a regular gas pump with an underground storage tank. As tractors were taking the place of horses, we opened a British American bulk station, selling and delivering grease and fuel oil by the barrel. We received one cent per gallon as our commission at that time."

After twenty-three years in business, John Walker sold his store, in 1946, to Gordon Rud and moved to Vancouver. Vernon Lyseng and Raymond Skaret were the next buyers. They sold out in March, 1948, to the Grue brothers who in turn sold to Maynard Moe in July, 1949. Mr. Moe sold the store to Raynold Thronson and Richard Skaret and Raynold continued to operate the business until it closed in 1979.

Grain companies, United Grain Growers in 1914, Searle in 1927, and Alberta Wheat Pool in 1928, built



Gulf bulk fuel station in Armena.



Jarmac Lumber Yard, Armena.

elevators as well as houses for their grain buyers in Armena.

In the early 1930's when the Armena Lutheran Parish, comprised of the Scandia, St. Joseph, and Bethlehem congregations, was formed, a parsonage was provided in Armena. Rev. Selmer Rude was the first parish pastor. After fire destroyed the Scandia Church in 1956, the new church building was constructed right in Armena rather than on the former country site. A new centralized school was also built in the hamlet in 1941.

Armena was well established as a central point for large gatherings. Church and community picnics were held during the summers. In early years Armena district residents were active in various sports and for many years had good baseball teams. According to some reports, the first baseball practice was held in Armena about 1919. The Jasmans, Roths, and Bennie Olstad come to mind as some of the early team members.

Memories of The Early Northwest Camrose History as recalled by Elmer Olson

This history of my earliest impressions of the Northwest Camrose area must also include Camrose in order to create a word picture. In 1908 Camrose had board sidewalks and hitching posts and dirt streets — sometimes muddy. To see our streets today we gratefully appreciate the foresight of the early pioneers in planning a wide main street.

My parental home was located five and one-half miles northwest of Camrose. The trail to Camrose passed by the remains of a building that had formerly been a small store owned by Andy Carruthers, situated on the banks of Stoney Creek one mile north of Camrose.

The Baldenstein district was settled by the fam-

ilies of John Olson, Nels Lyseng, Mrs. Louise Rosendahl, Oliver Wilson, Paul Berg, Axel Nordstrom, John Hanson, Gust Anderson, and Mons Monson. There were no roads at that time, only trails around the sloughs and bluffs, to our neighbors. Further north and west were the settlements of Fridhem, Scandia and Pretty Hill districts, some of the first families came as early as 1894.

The trail from my home led diagonally across the land to Camrose. I vividly remember the time I had gone almost one-half mile to meet my Dad (or so I thought) coming back from town. Instead it was Theodore and Ida Thronson and fearing I was lost they stopped to bring me home. However, noticing it wasn't my Dad I became frightened and ran into a slough. Theodore rescued me and carried me to his buggy and returned me to my distraught mother who had been searching for me. My sister Judith was born that night.

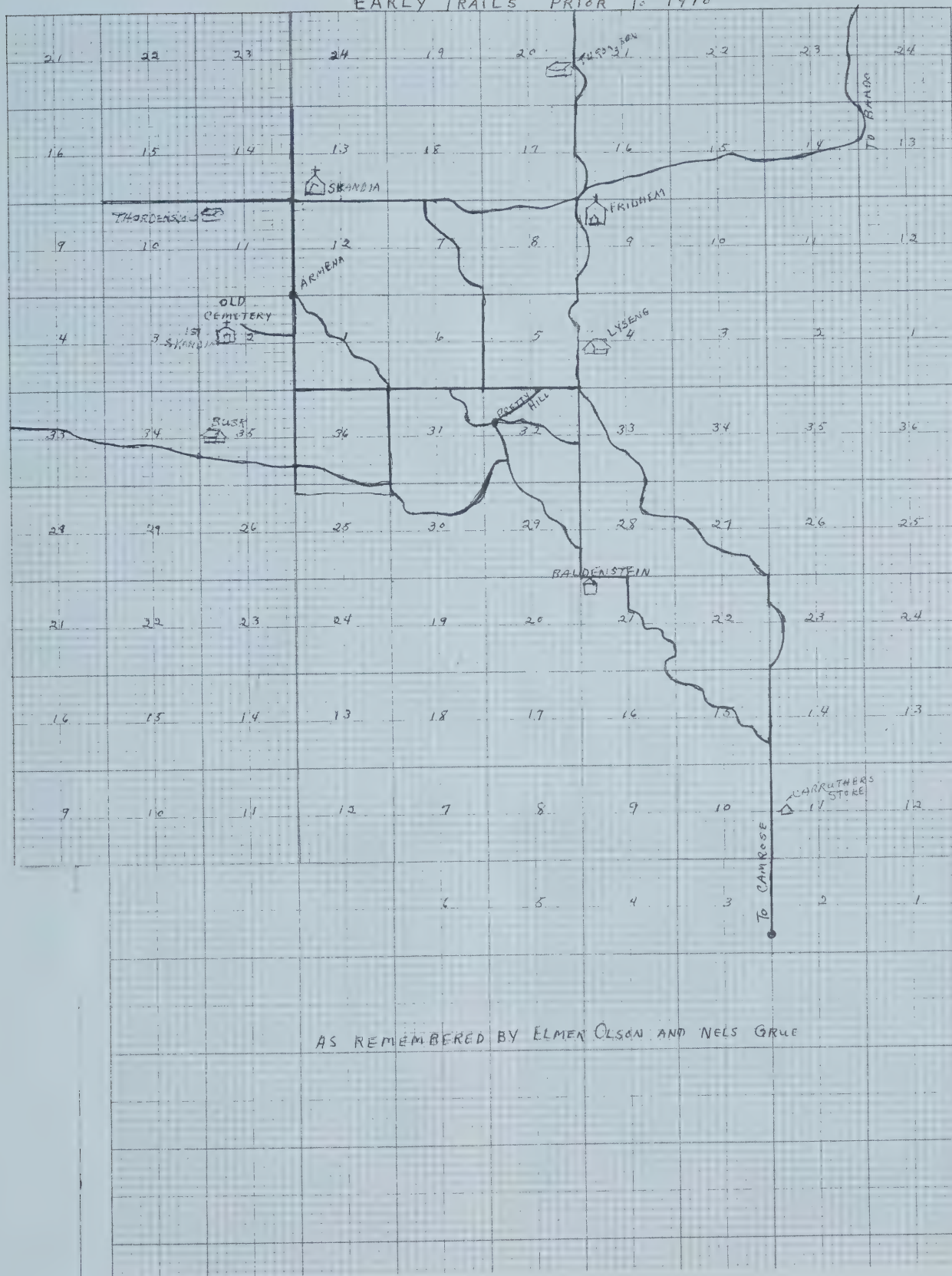
Mons Monson, the neighbor living west of us, was a carpenter. Waterston's are presently living there. The incident I remember was a discussion by the Olsons and Mons Monson and his two teenage daughters concerning the delicate subject of where to place a certain building. Finally the younger Monson girl told them where to build the backhouse.

One day I went to explore what all the hammering was about that could be heard in the distance. Without my parents consent I walked down the road to the new Baldenstein school being built by Cornelius Grue and his assistant Nels Prestlein. They were friends of our family so being I knew them I felt at ease. The day was very warm so I took the liberty of taking a drink from their water jug. Mr. Grue saw me and thundered out, "Leave that water alone." After that rebuke I hurried home.

Telephones were installed in our area about 1910. My first conversation on the telephone was with my Godmother, Mrs. Louise Rosendahl to thank her for a birthday gift. At five years of age I couldn't reach the telephone without the help of standing on a chair because the phone was placed so high up on the wall.

The coming of the railroad was a most interesting time for our family. It would be passing through the middle of our land less than one-half mile south of our home. The railroad contractors set up a camp of several large tents in a clearing just west of us. One tent was used as a kitchen for the cooks and serving meals for the men. Other tents were sleeping quarters. My parents supplied some of the milk and butter needed. They became well acquainted with the cook. He even invited them over for a dinner one time. As inquisitive young boys, Alex and I ventured over to the tent and peeked in, much to our parent's embarrassment. At that moment the cook noticed us and

EARLY TRAILS PRIOR TO 1910



AS REMEMBERED BY ELMER OLSON AND NELS GRUE

beckoned us in and treated us each a piece of prune pie.

When the grade across the slough was being built our Dad took us along to see it. We were amazed at the height of the grades. It was arduous work for the men driving the horses and mules to pull the two-wheeled scrapers.

Jorgine Hendrickson was the teacher when Alex and I started school in 1912. I could not respond to her questions in English as I spoke only Norwegian. She then whispered to me "Hvor gammel er du?" to which I replied, "Sv ar gammel" (Seven years old).

The highlight of my first year of school was the day the rails were laid for the Canadian National Railroad. The Baldenstein school was adjacent to the railroad right-of-way and we first could hear the clanging of steel rails. When the pupils saw the puffs of smoke rising over the tree tops pandemonium broke loose and they all crowded towards the windows. Miss Hendrickson knew this was an historical event so ordered all the children to stay together to go out and watch the process. The locomotive was pushing a flat car loaded with ties and steel rails. The men first laid the ties and then placed the steel rails in position. It really was the thrill of a lifetime to witness the "birth of a railroad."

In the fall of 1913 the Loveseth threshing outfit had just finished threshing on the John Olson farm and were on their way to the P. J. Berg farm, when an unfortunate accident occurred. When crossing the bridge the side of the grade caved in and the steam engine flipped upside down in the ravine leaving the threshing separator standing on the bridge. Enock Loveseth, the engineer jumped to safety and luckily was not hurt. The men worked through the night and by morning had the steam engine back on the road. Some steam pipes and a broken smoke stack had to be replaced before resuming work.

During World War I many regulations were in effect. Produce such as flour, sugar and coffee were rationed. Because of the shortage of butter oleo margarine was substituted. It wasn't very palatable nor did it look appetizing. It was made of a mixture of beef tallow and vegetable oil in a two-color of drab white and yellow. Flour was limited in amounts according to the number in the family. Mounted Policemen visited the homes to inquire about flour supplies. When he questioned about it my Dad replied that he thought there were about one and one-half sacks of flour. "No Papa," I interrupted, "there are four bags in the storeroom." I do believe I saw the officer wink at my Dad. However, we were allowed to keep the flour.

In 1917 I was delighted to see the first airplane. It was piloted by Katherine Stinson and landed at the

Camrose fairgrounds. A demonstration of Mock Warfare was staged by returned veterans. Katherine Stinson flew over and dropped "Dummy Bombs" to simulate a battle. "Wop" May, the famous northern bush pilot was in attendance and I had the privilege of talking to him. At the age of twelve my questions must have sounded boyish, but he graciously answered.

The war was still raging when a devastating frost hit our area in the middle of July 1918. Crops and gardens were ruined. The frost was so severe that the poplar trees shed their leaves as if it were fall. The farmers worked feverishly to cut the wilted crops for livestock feed. The rest of the summer remained hot and dry.

Shortly before the end of World War I the influenza epidemic was spreading. Whole families were stricken in some homes and neighbors helped with chores and other needs. When a person entered the house it was mandatory to wear a gauze mask to guard against infection. Almost every home kept a can of pine oil or formalin simmering on the stove for fumigation. Many remedies were tried to ward off the disease, even some that almost appeared superstitious, for instance a substance called "Asafoetida" was contained in a little cotton bag and worn around the neck. There was no proof that it helped.

I recall the day we were stacking bundles at Loveseths and saw five vehicles containing caskets pass by. It left us wondering what family was next to lose a loved one.

On November 11, 1918 we received the good news that the War had ended.

In the early years emigrants and settlers were not the only people to arrive in our area, the stork delivered a good number too with the help of a mid-wife. Occasionally it was questionable who would get to the scene first, the stork or the mid-wife. Among the very capable mid-wives were Mrs. G. O. Hendrickson, Mrs. Axel Nordstrom and Mrs. L. E. Loveseth. They are to be commended for they gave unstintingly of themselves when called.

In every community there were capable men that influenced our lives. I have great admiration for Mr. L. E. Loveseth and Mr. T. G. Ostrem for their efforts in establishing a new Lutheran Church in Camrose and also their interest in the Camrose Lutheran College.

Loveseth as a senior member of the congregation strongly urged the need for a larger church. In many congregational meetings the discussions generated more heat than light! As a gentleman Loveseth would wait for a lull in the debate and break out in singing a hymn — the congregation obligingly joined in. This

was the beginning of the second Moland Lutheran Church.

T. G. Ostrem was a man of strong Christian convictions. Because of his speaking ability he was often called on to preach. When he hit the pulpit for emphasis, the audience, if not spiritually awakened would most certainly be physically awakened.

These humble observations are only a part of my many recollections of life in the early years of Camrose Northwest. Personally, these experiences have left me with many pleasant memories.

Pretty Hill History

Recollections of Elmer Olson and Ruth (Pederson) Jasman

During the period before and after 1900 many settlers viewed the surrounding countryside from a permanent spot called "Pretty Hill", located six miles northwest of Camrose, Alberta then N.W.T. Here they speculated on how to wrestle the wilder-

ness into a community for their homes and families. Among the early settlers in the periphery of Pretty Hill were: Olaf Pedersons, Erick Lysengs, J. B. Ericksons, August Thunbergs, Alfred Andersons and the Elling, John and Ole Olsons.

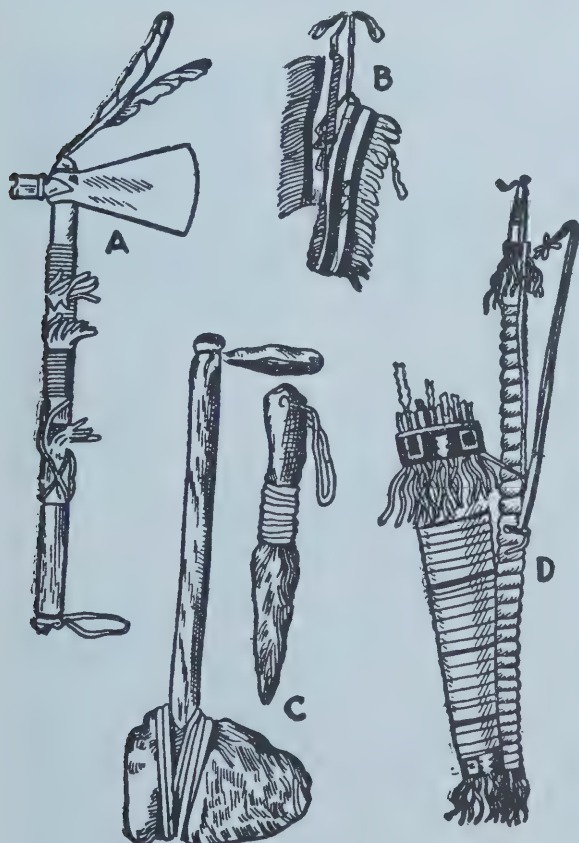
The "flatlanders" had a limited view because of the tall trees, so we welcomed every opportunity to visit our cousins at Pretty Hill. Our wagon trail led us right up to the top of the hill where we could look out on a bigger world of beauty and splendor and we could recognize each home in the encircled area.

We were intrigued by the stories told by our parents that we were indeed standing on historical ground where Indians had previously fought battles, died and were buried.

During the 1870's there were two camps of Cree Indians, one large group on Pretty Hill and a smaller camp at Lake Demay. A smallpox epidemic had spread through central Alberta and many camps were completely wiped out. A very old Cree Indian by the name of Pe-o-kis was one of only two survivors from a camp near Red Deer. He had heard of this camp on Pretty Hill being stricken by the disease, so as soon as he recovered he came to visit them and found only a few still living. The camp at Lake Demay had nearly all perished. I remember seeing Pe-O-kis on many occasions. He lived in Camrose where he passed away in 1936.

As a young boy I recollect some things about Pretty Hill. There were two rounded peaks at first, but as time went by they were levelled off by years of cultivation. I recall seeing a buffalo wallow there.

The families mentioned earlier in this story were



INDIAN IMPLEMENTS.

A, Tomahawk; B, Head dress; C, Stone implements; D, Quiver and bow case.



Cap worn by members of the Maple Leaf Band.



Maple Leaf Band. Left to Right: Cornelius Grue (leader), Thorvald Thronndson, Lars Grue, John Thronndson, Simon Grue, Nels Grue, Martin Olson, Paul Berg, Albert Kringen, Anton Thronndson, Alfred Anderson, Otto Anderson, Albert Berg, John Johnson, Cliff Wilson, Theodore Grue, Inar Broen, Carl Anderson.



Pretty Hill Sunday School, 1912. Picture taken on the Pretty Hill Band platform. Teachers, Back Row: Mary Pederson, Ida Moe, Gina Moe, Amelia Olson. Children: Martin Lyseng, Myrtle Olson, Ruth Pederson, Alice Olson, Nora Hanson, Dick Erickson, Esther Erickson, Alfred Busk, Herman Erickson, Walter Olson, Julius Olson, Elmer Olson, Alex Olson, Roy Anderson, Oscar Wickburck, Alvin Pederson, Ernest Lyseng, Ervin Olson, Matilda Thunberg, Earle Erickson.

members of the established Lutheran Churches of Scandia and Fridhem. It was a long distance to drive, with horses and wagons or buggies being the only mode of transportation. As a result our parents organized a Sunday School to be taught in the various homes. The teachers were, Mary (Lyseng) Pederson, Amelia (Tandberg) Olson and Ida and Gina Moe. Later on Norwegian Parochial School was taught in the homes. The terms lasted three weeks. The first school term was taught at the Elling Olson home with Anne Hendrickson (Anderson) as the teacher. Nellie Lyseng (Norvik) instructed the second term held at Ole Olsons and the third term at John Olsons with Mary Hendrickson (Rustand) teaching. Most of the children stayed at these homes while school lasted. I often think of the patience our parents had and of the christian guidelines that were instilled in all of us children.

Besides our studies we had recess and evenings for relaxation. We had fun in hay lofts, and coasting down snowy slopes with sleighs and even grain shovels. At our house we made a scaffold being we had no hills nearby. Ella Hendrickson (Sylyski) was challenged to slide down on a grain scoop. She survived, but admitted it was a pretty bumpy ride.

Picnics and ball games were often held at the Pretty Hill ball diamond. Among several local ball players were Cliff Wilson and Carl E. Lyseng. Olaf Pederson built a Bandstand in the grove near his home and the Community Band performed for many of the district gatherings held there. These were special times!

Many of us still remember the picnic feasts with genuine honest to goodness lemonade and delicious home-made ice cream. There was never a shortage of volunteers to squeeze lemons or to crank the ice-cream freezer. The tables actually groaned under the weight of an abundance of appetizing food.

One of the more important occasions was a Fund Raising event for the newly organized Camrose Lutheran Church (1901). Ball games, races and various contests were enjoyed making it into a County Fair atmosphere. Music lovers were delighted to listen to the Local Band selections. The historical site of Pretty Hill will always bring back many happy memories!

The Stegund Siding information by Grant Loveseth

The Stegund Siding, on NW ¼ of Section 23-47-20-W4, was located four miles north and one mile east of Camrose.

As you know, almost all the grain from our district was shipped through elevators on the C.P.R. line

in Camrose. The farmers in the area thought it would be more convenient to load carloads of grain, in many cases direct from the threshers, saving both time and storage.

Dad, being an administrator for my aunt Ida Grosset, a missionary in China, who owned the half-section the C.N.R. ran through, suggested to Mr. Ireland, the C.N.R. agent in Camrose, that he would donate the land to the railroad if they would put in the siding. The C.N.R. was looking for business through grain, as well as other things to ship, thereby taking away business from the C.P.R. With this competition, you could sell or consign the carload to any of the elevator agents you wanted and take government grade at the terminal. Dad purchased a secondhand set of scales and installed them there so, with our grain elevator, it was quite convenient.

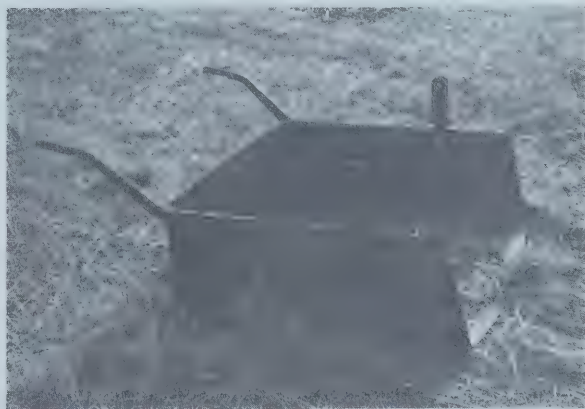
Stegund is an old Norwegian name but whether or not Dad had anything to do with it, I don't remember.

Local Administration

In 1868, the Canadian government took over the West from the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1877, treaties were made with the Indians by which they agreed to live on reservations. By 1882, four districts, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Athabasca, and Assiniboia, were carved out of the Northwest Territories by an Order-in-Council. The headquarters for these new political areas was in Regina. On September 1, 1905, Alberta "grew" and became a province and Edmonton became the seat of our provincial government.

The remaining information is printed by courtesy of the Provincial Archives.

For local government purposes the province was divided into Local Improvement Districts (L.I.D.) with jurisdiction over the schools, roads, pounds, and other local affairs. These districts were:



Part of a wheeler used in the building of the C.N. railway through Armena 1912-13.

Melrose No. 426, covering Townships 43-45, Ranges 16-18, W4th,

Parkland No. 456, covering Townships 47-49, Ranges 16-18, W4th, and

Lloyd George No. 457, covering Townships 46-48, Ranges 19-21, W4th.

Each L.I.D. was then further divided into divisions. Armena Camrose Northwest was in Lloyd George No. 457 L.I.D. — division 7.

The first attempt at road work was likely done with an axe and shovel as was probably true for most other pioneer areas in the locality. Trees were felled and smaller holes were filled with a shovel. The homesteaders soon found that fences were necessary to keep animals in pastures and out of crops. With fences came the need to construct roads on the government allowances made for them.

The first piece of machinery used was a “slip” pulled by two horses. It had a handle on each side and held 200 to 300 pounds of dirt. Later, big outfits involving “fresnos” drawn by four horses were introduced. These two pieces of machinery were a far cry from the earth movers of today which carry many tons in each load and are pulled by a crawler tractor.

The first road crews were composed of homesteaders and farmers who were working out their land taxes since money was so scarce. A road boss was appointed by the councillor of the Local Improvement District (later Municipality). Furrows were plowed with a walking plow and the loosened earth was scooped up with the slips. Later two-wheeled scrapers called “the old wheelers” were used. This machine had a long handle in the middle, and was pulled by two horses with an extra team, called a “snatch team”, hooked in front to help load it.

The Municipal District Lloyd George No. 457.

This Local Improvement District No. 457 had in 1911, a council that consisted of: Mr. C. B. Wiessner, Reeve; F. Chambers, C. Kinsman, N. Linden, R. McLeod, and O. A. Olson. The secretary-treasurer at that time was Mr. E. Coleridge Roper.

In 1917, this region was renamed the Lloyd George Local Improvement District No. 457 and soon after its name was changed to the Lloyd George Municipal District No. 457. Councillors were paid \$2.00 per day and the Secretary-treasurer received \$50.00 per month.

In 1917, this council was involved in a novel and unique method of obtaining funds to assist in maintenance of the roads in their area. Mr. George P. Smith, local M.L.A. at that time, convinced the town of Camrose that since the town and its residents benefited when the surrounding roads were well kept, a financial contribution could reasonably be expected from the town of Camrose that would assist to de-



Fresno used for moving dirt in building roads “Courtesy Camrose Museum”.

velop and maintain an area road system of high standard.

This financial assistance is reflected in the following list of revenues budgetted that year for maintenance:

Council of the town of Camrose —	\$600.00
Town of Camrose businessmen —	\$1,200.00
Province of Alberta —	\$500.00
Municipal District —	\$1,280.00
Motor Club —	Unstated Amount

These monies were spent on roads within a fifteen (15) mile radius of the town of Camrose. No roads were gravelled in those days.

Compared to that of 1911, four changes in the make-up of the council had occurred by 1921 when, in addition to Mr. C. B. Wiesser as Reeve, and Mr. O. A. Olson, the following people served: E. Gillespie, N. Monson, O. Rosendahl, and A. F. Smeltzer. E. Coleridge Roper continued as secretary-treasurer.

Two incidents that have been recalled were somewhat humorous. In the first, a persistent contractor three times presented a bill for road work in the amount of \$175.00 before he was convinced that, because of damage done to culverts, council would not pay any more than \$100.00, the amount of the final settlement.

In a second incident which took place in another area, when the road boss objected to what he thought was an excessive number of rest periods taken by his men (apparently the number taken was considerable) an argument ensued followed by an enthusiastic display of fisticuffs, much to the enjoyment of all concerned.

Prior to 1931, local municipal councils and school boards both levied taxes and collected them independently. This resulted in many grave problems, so in 1931 municipal councils were given authority to levy and collect funds for all local purposes with school boards obtaining their share by means of requisitions made upon the taxing authority.

Here was an improvement, but with educational costs rising sharply and requisitions also rising, municipal councils openly accused school boards of extravagance, irresponsibility, and building up reserves even at times when the taxing authorities were hard-pressed for cash. Many considered it unfair that school boards should have unlimited requisitioning power without responsibility for mill rates, or conversely, that municipal councils, which had to collect the money, had no control over how it was spent.

This condition was partly corrected in 1948 when it was provided that any requisition exceeding that of the previous year by twenty-percent (20%) could be referred to a Commissioner (changed later to the Public Utilities Board) for a ruling. A further change was made in 1952 when the twenty percent limit was removed.

There's a fairly well-defined relationship between the depression of the thirties and the development of the county system in Alberta. Prior to 1936 most school districts in the Province were about four miles square and meeting the costs of running a school in such a small area often became quite impossible. Consequently officials of the Provincial Government suggested as a remedy the amalgamation of from fifty to sixty or more small rural school districts into a single large school division. They pointed out this would provide the wider tax base required and at the same time would allow greater economy and efficiency of administration.

With the passage of legislation in 1936 the program of establishing large school divisions were undertaken in earnest. Eleven were operating at the end of the first year and by 1941, with early opposition changing to support as the advantages of the new system became apparent, approximately 3,500 small school districts had been welded into 50 large divisions.

Large Municipal Districts

In the meantime, the same arguments favoring the enlargement of school districts applied to the small municipal districts. Because of hard times twenty-seven of these had been disorganized between 1928 and 1940 and their administration taken over by the Department of Municipal Affairs. Officials believed that this retreat from local autonomy could be halted if the resources of several small units were combined to form large municipal districts.

Unnecessary duplication in local administration would be eliminated thereby and economies effected. Mill rates would be more stable and tax burdens moreover would be equalized between strong and weaker district.

With these objectives in view, the program of amalgamating two or more municipal units got underway in 1942 and by 1944 the number of municipal districts in Alberta had been reduced from 143 to 60.

The County Act

The establishment of counties under the County Act of April 5, 1950 was called "the final logical step in the evolution of local government in Alberta", but the proposal and Bill No. 50 itself met with violent criticism. It was opposed as "an attempt by the Department of Municipal Affairs to take over the running of school districts", as a plan "to centralize and regiment the entire Province in Counties" or more tersely as "dictatorial centralization".

Opposition to the system was unaccountably strong in the teaching profession and among school trustees (who saw in it "the deterioration of school affairs in favor of roads, sidewalks, and other public services"). Individuals were certain that counties would mean increased taxes, the loss of personal contact with their local councils, decreasing importance of elected officials, reduced services and even their own disfranchisement.

To help counteract such criticism, it was stipulated that "the number of counties to be formed under this Act shall not exceed four". Another compromise with those who demanded that a plebiscite be taken in a district as the first (and probably the last) step in converting it to a county, was the provision that four years after conversion, the ratepayers must be allowed to decide whether they wished to continue under county government or would prefer to revert to the previous form.

Single Government

The County Act originally provided for the amalgamation of Municipal, school, and hospital districts under a single authority. Unfortunately it has not been found feasible so far to "tuck hospital districts under the county quilt" although a compromise solution has been adopted. This provides the county with membership on the local hospital board according to the relationship existing between the county and the hospital district.

As has already been said, conflict of interest and lack of responsibility is eliminated with the adoption of the county form of local government. The school divisional board and the municipal district council are replaced by a single county council, members of which form themselves into committees to administer the affairs of the county as a whole. The school

committee is composed of three or more members of the county council (together with representatives of towns and villages which form a part of the county for school purposes) and exercises the authority of the old school board. The municipal committee, also composed of three or more members of the council, exercises the authority of a municipal council. Members meet as separate committees but as the county council, they bear full responsibility for the mill rate and exercise complete authority over expenditures.

The enlarged municipal district of Camrose No. 427 was formed as of January 1, 1944 and the first regular meeting was held on March 10, 1944. First council members, now seven in number, were: R. J. Bowes, Reeve; G. W. Bowie, J. Brown, A. J. Vikse, P. A. Link, J. W. Pearson, and Enoch Stromberg. Mr. W. S. Wiseman served as the first secretary-treasurer. Several of the people who served at the time of introduction of the enlarged municipal district had previously served in some capacity with the previous smaller municipal districts.

The total budget in 1944 for municipal and hospital purposes was \$292,438.00, raised in part by a levy of 11 mills. Road work labourers were paid fifty cents (50¢) per hour.

In 1945 the district had its number changed from 427 to 63, which was retained until its dissolution which came on January 1, 1963 with the formation of the County of Camrose No. 22, at which time the Camrose School Division No. 20 also ceased to exist. The dual form of local government that had existed and functioned in the area almost since the turn of the century gave way at that time to the County system, featuring a single government agency providing both municipal and educational service.

Some of the men who have served as councillors in our area are: Ole Rosendahl, Albert Kringen, Nels Grue, Philip Link, Robert Young, Oscar Mallas, Robert Berkholtz, and at the present time, Les Coykendahl.

Local Administration

The following excerpts are from the minutes of some of the Council Meetings, courtesy of the Provincial Archives.

Meetings of the Council of L.I.D. Lloyd George No. 457 held in Camrose March 23, 1918, called by the Chairman, instead of April 6, legal notice being given.

Mayor O. B. Olson, V. Forster, and Pike, representing the Camrose Town Council, attended and urged upon the Council the necessity of adopting some plan whereby the eight main roads, at least, into Camrose will be properly maintained during 1918.

They proposed that the Town Council then hire

two men and three teams, at \$150.00 per month each, for five months and maintain the roads within the town and for five miles on each of the eight roads leading into the town, from the town limits.

Moved by O. Rosendahl, seconded by G. A. Mattice that C. B. Weisser be hereby authorized to hire two men and three teams for five months at \$375.00 per month or less (i.e. \$150.00 per month for each man and three teams); men to work continuously on the roads under the supervision of the Councillor of each division respectively.

Moved by G. A. Mattice, seconded by O. Rosendahl that the Council purchase ten scrapers with eveners wherever same can be bought the cheapest laid in Camrose. Scrapers to be distributed as follows: Div. 1 — two, Div. 2 — two, Div. 3 — two, Div. 5 — two, and Div. 6 — two.

Moved by O. Rosendahl, seconded by O. A. Olson that the question of the ditch through the SW 6-47-20 W4 be left to G. A. Mattice to make the best possible settlement with Rome Link.

Minutes of Special Meeting of Council held in Council Chambers

Camrose, December 23, 1943

Moved by E. S. Soderstrom that \$5,000.00 be earmarked for grading and gravelling the Ervick-Hay Lakes road.

Moved by A. Haugan that \$5,000.00 be earmarked for grading and gravelling ten miles of road from Round Hill West and South to meet the gravelled road.

Moved by W. Marler that \$750.00 be earmarked for draining the Spokley slough.

Minutes of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Camrose No. 63 on April 3, 1948.

Resolution moved by R. J. Bowes, seconded by J. Bowden; that as it is necessary to appoint a Medical Officer of Health; Therefore, this council appoints Dr. J. D. Neville of Camrose as Medical Officer of Health, duties and fees to be settled at May Meeting.

Resolution moved by J. Brown and A. J. Vikse, that the following rates of pay shall be in effect for the ensuing year:

Single man	50¢ per hour
Man and team	70¢ per hour
Man and four horses	90¢ per hour
Foreman	60¢ per hour
Maintaining, up to a 10-ft. blade	50¢ per running mile
Tractor and man, up to 15-30	\$2.25 per hour
Motorgraders, Tractormen, Elevating-graders	80¢ to \$1.00 per hour

The Railway Comes To Armena by Mary Grue

By the year 1881, about a thousand white people had come into Alberta. These people liked what they



Map, courtesy of Camrose Canadian, shows the development of railroads through the town in the relatively short time of nine years.

saw. More settlers, however, were needed to till this beautiful land. Some were coming in by ox cart and if a railway were built many more settlers would come.

But, railway service was coming! In September, 1881, the Canadian Pacific Railway (C.P.R.) had come as far as Brandon, Manitoba. From there, instead of following the old trail to Fort Carlton, then up to the North Saskatchewan River to Battleford, then on to Fort Edmonton, and through the gentle sloping Yellowhead Pass, it was to go to Calgary. It was built parallel to the United States border and went through the wild Kicking Horse Pass.

On June 10, 1883, the railway had reached Medicine Hat and on August 11, 1883, it reached Calgary. How the people there celebrated! Even the President

of the C.P.R., George Stephen, celebrated in his own private train car. One special guest was Father Lacombe who had helped many times during the C.P.R.'s dealings with the Indians. He was made President of the C.P.R. for one hour and was given a lifetime pass on the railroad. There are many interesting stories of how Father Lacombe used this pass for himself and for others.

The C.P.R. then built many small lines around Calgary. Trade with Fort Benton, Minnesota decreased. Ranchers came and settled the area.

By 1885, Calgary, Fort Macleod, Coalhurst (later known as Lethbridge), Medicine Hat, and Edmonton were the main points in the framework of what was later to be Alberta. To make connections with the



"Puffer Billy" 5114 on last trip thru' Armena.



Everyone came to bid farewell to Puffer Billy.

southern railway, Edmonton had to use stage coaches and strings of freight wagons. Because of the distance and the time involved in making these trips, some people who believed in the future of this area, built and kept stopping places at what is now Red Deer and Wetaskiwin.

By 1890, the C.P.R. had begun watching the stage coaches and the freight wagons going north so decided to build a railway to South Edmonton (later known as Strathcona). This railway, called the Calgary-Edmonton Railroad, reached Edmonton on August 10, 1891.

Siding 16, later known as Wetaskiwin, was established and soon came to be a jumping-off spot for settlers who wanted to obtain land in this area. It was at Wetaskiwin that the first permanent settlers to Armena stopped in 1894. During the years 1895 to 1905, the settlers who came to Armena came by train as far as Wetaskiwin.

In 1897, there were many people coming to Edmonton because of the Klondike Gold Rush. They stepped off the train at Strathcona, bought supplies, and started off for the Yukon. The routes were poor and many would-be miners turned back. Nevertheless, all this traffic brought prosperity to Edmonton.

In 1883, Edmonton had been disappointed that Calgary had gotten the first trans-Canada railway when their's was the logical one. On November 24, 1905, however, Mackenzie's and Mann's "Northern Railroad" came from the east to Edmonton; it later continued on to Jasper and the west coast. By this time, the C.P.R. was sending rail lines east from Lacombe and Wetaskiwin.

In 1904, on a fine summer morning, an outfit of men, machines, mules, and horses began a C.P.R. grade east from Wetaskiwin, working through our beautiful parkland country, with their destination being Saskatoon. As with any early railroad crew, there was much hard work — sweating, pushing, pulling as the men, with horses and mules, pulling clumsy graders and dump carts, cut down some grades and filled in lower spots. After the grades were built, ties and rails were brought in and laid.

The grade came by Bittern Lake, a bridge was built over Stoney Creek, and the train came to Camrose (then known as Sparling) in June, 1905. A mixed train came from Wetaskiwin to Camrose, turned around and went back, three times a week. By 1906, track was finished to Daysland, then went on to Hardisty, and on to Saskatoon by 1909.

During the next year or so, two more rail lines were built to Camrose; the Grand Trunk Pacific (G.T.P.), from Tofield through Kingman, and the Canadian Northern Railway (C.N.R.), from Vegreville through Round Hill and on to Camrose. The G.T.P. continued on, over the wooden bridge at Duhamel, to Mirror and on to Calgary. The C.N.R. went by way of Stettler and Drumheller on its way to Calgary.

The following items on the railroad's progress are from the files of the "Camrose Canadian":

January 16, 1911:

The only line that is not built is the short line from Camrose to Strathcona. The survey is completed, the right of way is purchased, and townsites are located. Tenders have already been called for construction and the line will be completed and operational during 1911.

April 20, 1911:

Latest railway news — definite information is received from the construction company that work will commence as soon as possible.

April 27, 1911:

This week we are able to state that tenders have



been issued for the grading of the line and that a contractor, who is estimating the job, says work will commence immediately.

On Saturday there arrived in town (Camrose), John Timothy, a well-known railway contractor who drove from Edmonton along the proposed route for the purpose of making his estimate. He states that the work will very likely commence within a week and that the construction gangs will operate from Camrose.

May 11, 1911:

The construction of the C.N.R. branch, Camrose to Strathcona, will begin tomorrow.

May 18, 1911:

The camp, looking like a tented village, was pitched seven miles or so northwest of Camrose where it will remain until a stretch of six to eight miles is completed.

Swan and Owen have taken the contract and are sub-contracting.

The Engineering head is Christopherson.

It is expected that by the end of the week there will be one-hundred and fifty (150) teams and three-hundred (300) men working.

Work is really going fast. The contractors report that with a reasonable amount of good weather they will have the entire line of forty-five miles in shape

for laying track long before the cold weather sets in, in the fall.

May 25, 1911:

Fifty men are throwing up grades south from Strathcona and two-hundred and twenty-five (225) men work north from Camrose.

October 5, 1911:

Track is not laid; that will be done in the spring. Lumber for the culverts and bridges, to come from British Columbia, is not yet delivered so rails will have to be laid later.

Camps are deserted.

May 9, 1912:

Only about five miles of preparing the grades needs to be completed.

With early completion of the grading, it will be possible to rush track laying operations and it should not be very long before the C.N.R. is running trains from Camrose to Edmonton.

May 16, 1912:

Grading crews are coming through Hay Lakes. There are a few gaps yet to be finished.

June 13, 1912:

Headline said: C.N.R. grade to Edmonton is not ready for the steel gang.

(However) The placing of culverts at certain places must yet be done, after which the grade is ready to receive the steel, right in to South Edmonton (Strathcona).

June 27, 1912:

M. H. Macleod, General Manager of the C.N.R., is reported, in the Edmonton capital June 25, as stating that track laying on the Strathcona-Camrose branch, of the Canadian Northern Railway, will begin during the first week in July.

The work will begin at the Camrose end and will be carried through with all speed.

July 11, 1912:

With a gang of two-hundred (200) men, steel on the C.N.R. cut-off to South Edmonton is proceeding at the rate of close to two miles a day.

A point about six miles north-west of Camrose is now reached.

With favorable weather, the cut-off will be completed in about three weeks time.

Service on this line is assured this fall.

August 22, 1912:

Mr. Shepherd, in charge of the track laying, stated that there are only about eight miles of the line to South Edmonton yet to be laid, and that this **may not** be finished on account of materials running short.

The track laying gang will shortly be moved from here to the Vegreville to Calgary line where sixty miles have yet to be laid before Calgary is reached.

October 16, 1913:

The C.N.R. Station at South Edmonton is almost finished. The line, then very likely, will be opened from Camrose to Edmonton.

October 30, 1913:

A C.N.R. cut-off between Camrose and South Edmonton has seen little activity for several months, but this week a gang of nearly three-hundred (300) men are at work finishing the ballasting of some nineteen miles.

It is reported that the C.N.R. station at South Edmonton is about completed and the question arises whether service is to be given on the line this fall.

May 21, 1914:

Four ballasting crews are at work on the C.N.R. cut-off, Camrose to South Edmonton.

Four crews, with a combined force of one-hundred and fifty (150) men, are now hard at work putting the grade into shape with gravel secured from what is known as the Camrose Pit — Battle River.

It is reported that in six weeks at least, the line will be ready for operation.

June 4, 1914:

The C.N.R. have made no announcements of any service from Camrose to Edmonton.

June 18, 1914:

Superintendent Brown of Edmonton says ballast-ing will soon be finished.

Daily service on the C.N.R. will probably begin next month.

June 25, 1914:

Headline: Daily service on C.N.R. soon.

But for exceptionally wet weather the past month, the service would no doubt have gone into effect about the middle of July.

This route is shorter, cheaper, and faster than the Canadian Pacific or the Grand Trunk Pacific Railways. This is surely welcome news.

Single fare — \$1.50 Others — \$2.05

Return fare — \$2.50 Others — \$3.45

C.N.R.: one hour and forty minutes

Others: three hours

Only ten miles of ballasting remains now. With a large crew, busy practically day and night, this work should soon be finished.

It is generally believed that trains will run through Camrose in the daytime.

July 2, 1914:

A tri-weekly service to Calgary on the C.N.R. begins July 6.

Latest information is that the cut-off (Camrose to South Edmonton) will be finished August 1.

The talk in Edmonton is that the C.N.R. will be running daily trains over C.P.R.'s High Level Bridge

and the C.P.R. will, in exchange, use some of the C.N.R.'s lines further south.

November 5, 1914:

The ballasting of the cut-off is understood to be practically completed and application has been made to the government to have the branch inspected. When this will be done is uncertain but it is expected that there will not be many more weeks of delay.

Time of run — one hour and fifty minutes with four stops.

The other railways, C.P.R. and G.T.P., will very likely cut fares, even if their routes are longer.

The following is from Alberta Archives:

The Camrose to Strathcona line was part of the Canadian Northern Railway and the section was opened to traffic on December 28, 1914. Prior to this time, the railway was called the Alberta Midland Railway Company (A.M.R.). According to the publication "Canadian National Railways: Synoptical History", the A.M.R. "was incorporated to construct and operate a railway from Vermilion to Whitford Lake and Bruderheim; from near Morinville to the eastern boundary of the province; from Edmonton to Peace River; from Strathcona via Calgary, etc. etc., with power to amalgamate with the Canadian Northern Railway Company. Under an agreement dated June 9, 1909, the Alberta Midland Railway Company was amalgamated with the Canadian Northern Railway, effective July 12, 1909."

Around 1919, the Canadian Northern Railway began talks with the Grand Trunk Pacific, with a view of taking over their lines. Both railway companies were having financial difficulties and finally, in 1922, the government took over and the new company was the C.N.R. but, this time the initials stood for the Canadian National Railway.

Here are some interesting stories that have come up concerning the railway.

Thore Grue, his family, and his cousin, Ole Movold, arrived in Wetaskiwin in the spring of 1894. Leaving Mrs. Grue and the rest of the family in a large tent provided for the settlers until they could locate, Thore Grue and Ole Movold set off with a land guide, towards the area where Armena is today. Thore wanted to locate where there were no previous settlers and where a Norwegian colony, with a congregation and a school, could be established.

Standing on the highest point, "Pretty Hill" (about three miles south-west of present Armena), they looked south, west, and north-west over the land. Surely if a railway were to come, it would come through that little valley so Thore took the NW ¼ of Section 12-48-21 W4, Thore's father took the NE ¼ of Section 12-48-21 W4, and Ole Movold took the NW ¼ of Section 14-48-21 W4.

As Thore had predicted many years before, the railway, when it was built in 1912, did come through the little valley. It touched the south-west corner of his land and went through Ole Movold's land.

Elmer Olson tells another story. When his dad started farming in 1902, he built a barn first and slept up in the loft for a while. The barn had been built on C.P.R. land, the NW ¼ of Section 21-47-20 W4. One night he had a dream that a railroad was coming, right through his barn! In the morning the dream was still so vivid that he decided to move his barn to his homestead quarter. Sure enough, the railroad did come where his dream said it would.

Elmer also remembers that the railroad workers had their camp close to the Olson home. The workers often came over for milk, butter, and eggs so one day they invited his mother and dad, but not the children, back to the camp for a meal. Elmer, however, sneaked over, crawled under the tent, and looked in. He was caught but was then invited to come in to have a piece of pie.

Elmer also remembers when the first locomotive, the one laying the tracks, passed by the Baldenstein School. This event took place either in the spring or fall of 1912.

George and Gertie Lyseng remember when the railroad line was surveyed and then built.

"When the railroad was built, coming through Armena, the workers' camp was set up on the north-west corner of Section 11-48-21 W4. Since the foreman's name was Mr. Wright, the camp was known as "the Wright camp". They had a large tent that served as a kitchen and dining room and smaller tents for the men's sleeping quarters. Some of the farmers in the surrounding area sold eggs, butter, and milk to the camp.

There were no tractors or road equipment then so the building of the railroad bed was graded up with two-wheelers, mule teams, and a couple of teams of horses. They had twenty-two (22) two-wheelers and each had a team of mules and men to drive them. When filling the two-wheelers with dirt, they hitched a snatch team of horses to the end of the pole to help the mule team. When it was filled, the horses were unhitched and the two-wheeler and mule team would go on their merry way to the railroad bed to dump the dirt. And so it went, all had their turns and help from the team of horses.

When it was time to quit for dinner or in the evening, the mules seemed to know and they just would not work anymore. There was no overtime when working with them! They would either refuse to go or they would take off, hee-hawing all the way back to camp.

Then came the time to put down the ties and iron



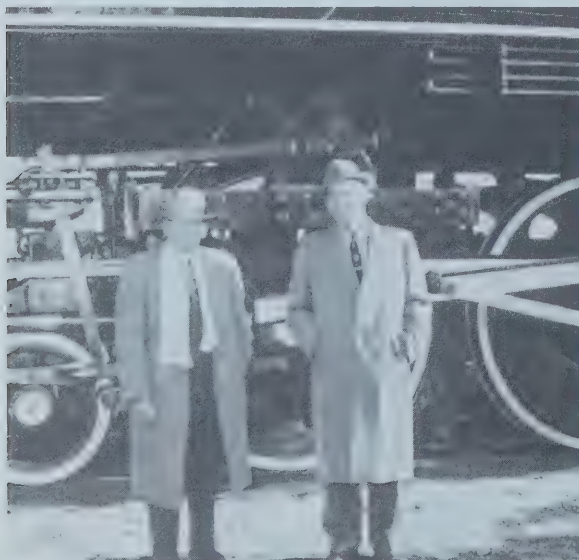
Beautiful view of Armena Pool elevator and train.

rails. The engine had a flat-car in front, loaded with the equipment needed to lay the rails as it moved forward. I can remember thinking that the engine was so big! I had never seen one before.

One incident that happened when the camp was there was when Mr. Wright came home from town, late one night, and noticed a fire at the Knut Lyseng place. He rode over, with his fast mule team, and woke them up. The blacksmith shop was on fire and it burned down."

Josie (Broen) Paulson remembers that when the survey was first made, the line was supposed to go between their house and their barn. Needless to say, John Broen was most happy when they moved it about a quarter-mile south.

She also remembers that her mother baked bread for the train work-gang when they were camped west of their place. The loaves were very big and she received twenty-five cents (25¢) for three loaves.



Ed Hendrickson and Nels Prestlien rode the last steamer to go through Armena in 1961.

The children were always glad to deliver the bread as the camp cooks usually gave them some goodies when they got there.

Rosalie (Blakely) Welda remembers that her parents weren't very happy when the railroad came through because it cut up their land. Rosalie remembers those heavy railroad gates that they had to open and close whenever the cows were brought back and forth to the pasture to the west. This story could be told by many whose land the railroad went through.

Another story comes from a little further north and east and very likely happened in the fall of 1912. The settlers began to hear a most dreadful sound — as if some wild, fierce animal were on the prowl. The men took their guns and went to get "him". To their astonishment, it turned out to be the train that was just beginning to come through laying track. The men came back feeling pretty foolish — to think they had gone to shoot a train!

After the railroad had come to Armena a store and elevators were built. The settlers could get mail and supplies close by and they could sell their produce, or they could even travel to the bigger centers.

The Canadian National Railroad line still runs through the Armena and North Camrose area. The last passenger train, the Railliner, went through on November 12, 1981, but freight trains still travel along the line.

The Telephone

Eleven years after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone (1876), four telephones were ordered for installation in Edmonton. It was not until 1908, however, that the first telephone directory for the province was printed. That same year, the first telephone was installed at the Red Cross Drug store, which is now the Corner Drug.

In 1911, a group of men, with a team of draft horses hitched to a wagon loaded with telephone poles, axes, pick-axes, spades, and other necessary equipment, headed north from Camrose to begin the building of the government telephone line. Progress was very slow; by the time they were working ten miles north of town, it took them two hours to reach the place where they could continue to work. It took them another two hours to drive back to town in the evening as they had board and room for themselves and the horses in town.

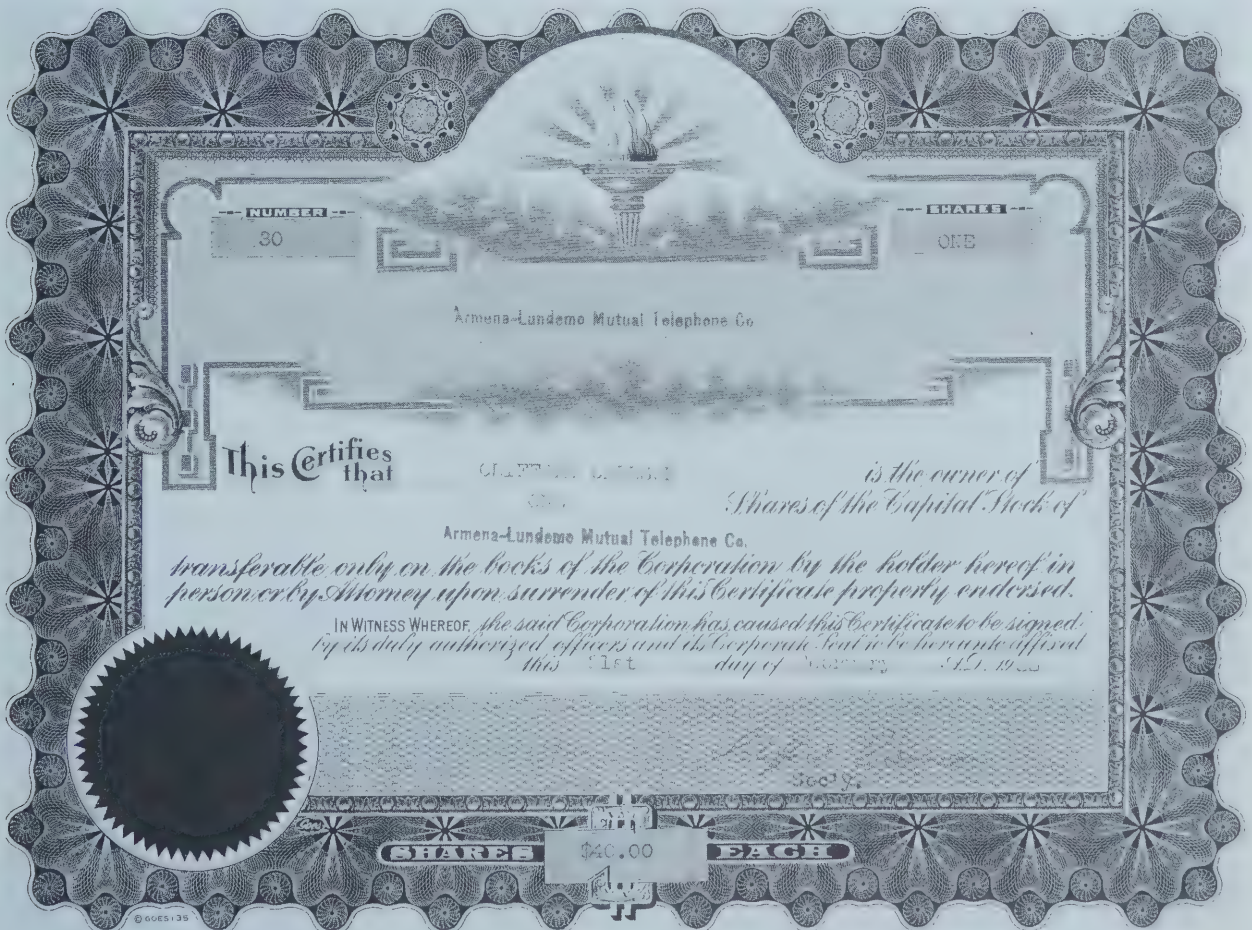
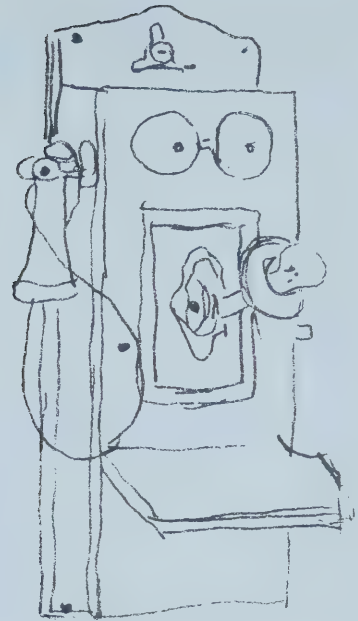
Nels Grue states that a telephone pole put up in his yard in 1911 was still standing when the telephone lines were removed after the underground system was completed.

By courtesy of Ella Sylyski, we quote from the Alberta Government Official Telephone Directory, No. 7, October, 1912.

811 — Anderson, B. A.	1212 — Hendrickson, H.
1107 — Anderson, C.	801 — Kubbernus, John
805 — Berg, Paul	810 — Loveseth, L. E.
1102 — Ditmanson, A.	1105 — Lyseng, A. K.
1203 — Erickson, J. B.	806 — Lyseng, C. E.
1208 — Fowler, E.	1205 — Mikulecky, T.
1106 — Grue, T. S.	1201 — Moe, J.
813 — Grundberg, P. A.	1206 — Mortenson, Hans
802 — Hanson, John	808 — Nelson, O. B.
1211 — Hendrickson, G. O.	1202 — Olson, E. E.
803 — Olson, John E.	1108 — Skaret, O.
1213 — Olson, O. A.	1207 — Thompson, O.
1104 — Olson, O. E.	1111 — Thronson, A.
1103 — Pederson, O.	1110 — Thronson, Theo
1109 — Rasmussen, R.	1204 — Thunberg, A.
1209 — Rohold, D.	807 — Wilson, O. J.
804 — Rosendahl, Ole	

End of quote.

During the depression years of the early 1930's, it became difficult, if not impossible, for the subscribers to pay their telephone rentals which varied from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per month. They felt more needful of other things, a pair of shoes or a bag of flour, which could be paid for with the rental money and for this reason, many telephones were removed. On some



Clifford Carlson's Armena-Lundemo Telephone share.

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

No. 9069



CANADA

Certificate of Incorporation

Whereby Certify that

- The Armena Lundemo Mutual Telephone Company Limited -
is this day incorporated under The Companies Act
of the Province of Alberta as a Limited Company.
The Capital of the Company is \$1,000.00 divided into
1000 shares of \$1.00 each.

The registered office of the Company is situate
at Armena in the Province of Alberta.



Given under my hand and seal at Edmonton
this — Twenty seventh —
day of — April — 1935.

R. J. Smith

REGISTRAR OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

CAMROSE
EXCHANGE

February 21st 19 50

PLAN No. 413

Revised

ORDER No. 413

BOUNDARY ACCEPTED AS
INDICATED IN RED ON PLAN:

• ARMENA LUNDEMO •
RURAL MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

Robert V. Stollen
PRESIDENT

Clifford Carlson
SECRETARY

APPROVED:

W. J. G. G. G. G.
DEPUTY MINISTER OF TELEPHONES

AMENDMENT N°1 Oct. 23/48

Boundary extended to include NE 1-48-21-4 and
NW 6-48-20-4 relinquished by NORTH BITTERN LAKE
R.M.T. Co.

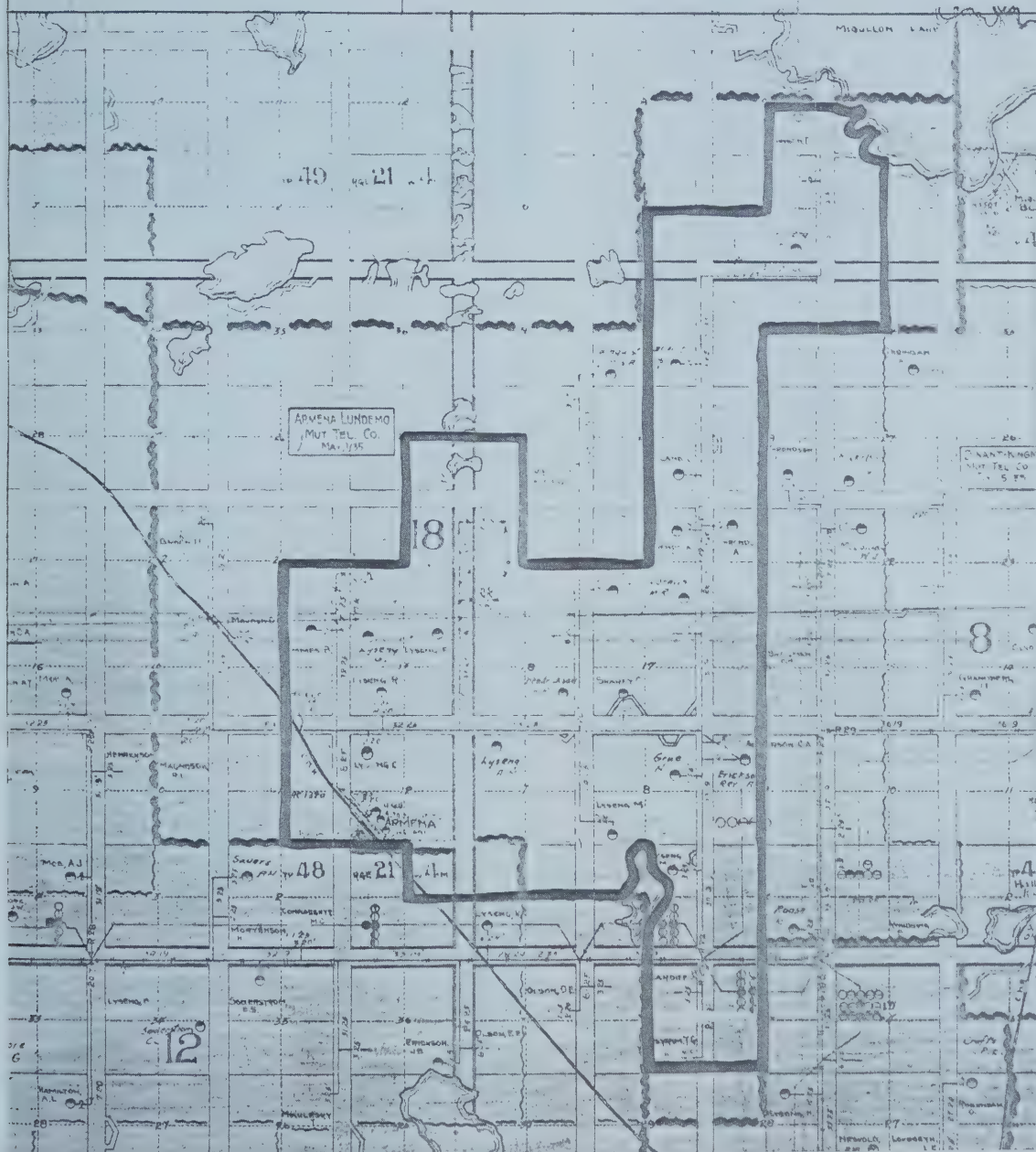
Together with N 1/2: 19 & S 1/2: 30 -48-20-4 and NE 24
SE 25-48-21-4 W.K.E. T.F.

AMEND. N°2 APRIL 9-1949

NE 19 & SE 30-48-20-4 relinquished. W.K.E. T.F.

AMEND N°3 JAN 26/50

Boundary extended to include the following
SE 32 SW 33-47-20-4. NE 1-48-21-4.
NW 6-48-20-4. W.K.E. H.W.



lines only one or two telephones were left in service so in case of necessity most farmers still had access to a phone.

With so little rental coming in and the cost of upkeep to the lines due to continual breakdowns from storms, trees falling on the lines, moving buildings and machinery, and from vandalism, the government found it impossible to continue being responsible for the lines. Rather than abandon the rural telephone system, it was decided to sell it to the farmers.

In the latter part of 1934, a meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Grue. Interested farmers were gathered to consider the purchase of the telephone lines in the area. Nels Grue was elected president, John D. Walker as secretary, and Carl Lyseng, Emil Lyseng, and Anton Thronson as the directors. Lars Maland was elected as trouble-shooter.

The incorporation of the Armena-Lundemo Mutual Telephone Company Ltd. was on April 27, 1935.

The Agreement of Sale included the portion of the physical plant known as circuits eleven (11) and eighteen (18), located in townships 48 and 49, ranges 20 and 21, west of the 4th meridian, along with two pairs of wire on long-distance line to Camrose, twenty-four wall telephone sets, and three bells, all at the cost of \$495.00. The first payment was to be a cash payment of \$123.75. The first note of \$185.60 was to come due on May 1, 1936, with interest at 6% per annum; the second note of \$185.65 was due May 1, 1937, also with 6% interest per annum. The Agreement of Sale was signed on May 8, 1935, by the president, Nels Grue, and secretary, John D. Walker.

Each shareholder had to purchase a share at \$24.00 each and the rental was set at \$1.00 to \$1.50 per month.

In 1950, more farmers in the area requested telephone service which necessitated the building of a third line. During the next few years, the oak-wood box telephones were replaced by dial phone instruments. A maximum of fifteen subscribers could now be on each of the three circuits, 11, 12, and 13, that this company now had.

These changes raised the value of the shares, from \$24.00 to \$40.00. Later, the capital stock value was raised to \$70.00 per share.

In 1969, the Armena-Lundemo Mutual Telephone Company Ltd., together with other Mutuals in the Camrose exchange, started negotiating with the Alberta Government Telephones for an underground system. The meetings took place on February 4th and April 18, 1969. Soon after that, A. G. T. commenced burying underground cable.

The Armena-Lundemo Mutual Telephone Co. Ltd., which was incorporated on April 27, 1935, ceased operations as of October 30, 1970, the date of



Rural telephone line from Fridhem corner east.

integration with the Alberta Government Telephones. The company was dissolved by shareholders' resolution on May 10, 1972.

During the time of the Mutual Co. several of the shareholders served as president, secretary, and directors. Through inclement weather and poor road conditions the trouble-shooters, Lars Maland, Chester Thronson, Richard Erickson, Albert Stollery, Clifford Carlson, Oliver Grue, Wesley Thronson, Lyle Lyseng, and Marville Skaret, served faithfully.

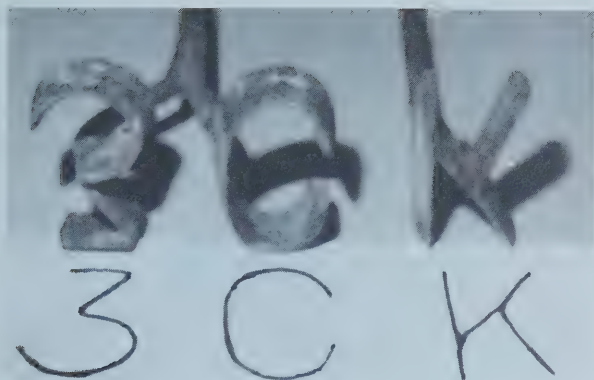
In 1970, all poles, wires, cross-arms, guy-wires, and anchors were stock piled on the farm of Clifford and Floreen Carlson. Camrose Auction conducted the sale of the telephone equipment in the last part of October, 1971. Proceeds from the sale were divided equally among the shareholders. Marville Skaret, president, and Clifford Carlson, secretary-treasurer, signed the release of all assets.

Just to prove how efficient the telephones were in older days, we relate this incident:

One day, Frank Fuernkranz found his horse lying in the straw pile, unable to get up. He went to Helmer Hendrickson and phoned to Ole Skaret for the boys to come and help him. When Helmer and Frank got back to the horse they found not only the Skaret boys were there, but other neighbors as well!

Animal Pounds

A Domestic Animal Act was passed in 1920 whereby the Lieutenant-Governor, by Order-in-Council, could establish a pound district in each



Cattle Brand for Albert Kringen.

township. By this Act all domestic animals were prohibited from running at large.

Applications for a pound district had to be filed thirty (30) days in advance in order that notices could be published in the Gazette, one other newspaper, and in the district or nearest post office. If within the thirty days the majority of residents in the township had not objected, a pound would be established.

Any farmer in the area could capture an animal running at large and deliver it to the nearest pound to be impounded. At the same time, he had to deliver a written statement describing the animal impounded, the area trespassed, and damages claimed. He also had to give the name of the owner, if known, and whether or not an agreeable settlement had been reached.

The pound-keeper, appointed by the Minister, was responsible for the feed and safe-keeping of the animal, for which he was reimbursed, before delivering the animal to the owner.

A pound-keeper was appointed for one year at a time and was then eligible for re-appointment. Any pound-keeper wishing to do so could resign but this

resignation did not take effect until a successor was appointed or the pound discontinued operation.

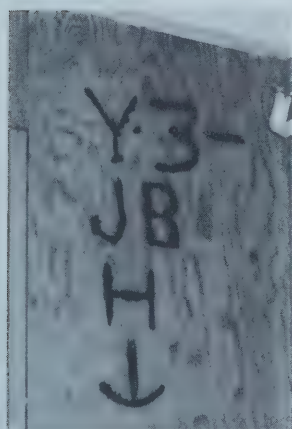
Every pound-keeper kept records in a pound book prescribed by the Minister. This book was open for inspection by any justice or policeman free of charge and to any other person for a fee of ten cents (10¢). Extracts from the book were granted for twenty-five cents (25¢).

All fees and charges payable in respect to any impounded animal were first paid to the pound-keeper.

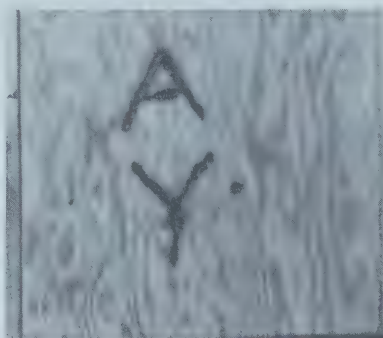


John Moe brand on left rib, 1900-1910.

If the owner of the impounded animal was known to the pound-keeper, the pound-keeper was to deliver or mail a written notice to the owner. If the owner was not known or did not claim his animal within three (3) days and pay the required fees, the pound-keeper placed two consecutive notices in the Gazette. If the animal was branded, the pound-keeper had to notify



Y-3 J. B. Erickson cattle brand — 1902 or 1903. J. B. — horse brand. (H) — Herman Erickson cattle brand — approximately 1949.





On left rib and left shoulder. Registered Norman and Darren Moe, 1970.

the Recorder of Brands at Medicine Hat by registered mail and if it was a recorded brand, the pound-keeper was notified by return registered mail. He then had to notify the owner, by registered mail, that an animal bearing his brand was confined in the pound.

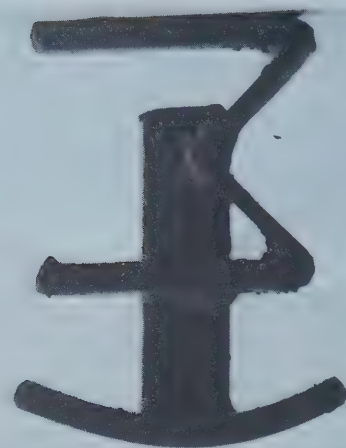
Notices of impounded animals were posted in the nearest post office, on telephone poles or conspicuous places, and on the pound. If an animal was not claimed within twenty (20) days after the notices were placed, the pound-keeper made arrangements to sell the animal.

A pound-keeper who failed to fulfill the duties required of him or made false statements was guilty of an offence and was liable for a penalty not exceeding \$100.

A person capturing an animal and impounding it received \$10.00 for each stallion or bull, \$2.00 for a boar, and 75¢ for all other animals.

Maintenance and feed costs paid to the pound-keeper were \$1.00 per day for each stallion or bull, 35¢ per day for each horse, head of cattle or swine, 10¢ a day for each sheep or goat, and 5¢ a day for each goose. He also got 25¢ for notifying the owner of the animal, 25¢ for notifying the department for a notice in the Gazette, and \$1.00 for posting other notices.

A district pound such as has been described was located on the SE ¼ of Section 4-48-20 W4, the farm owned by Carl E. Lyseng who was the first appointed pound-keeper. When we moved to Camrose, Oscar Jasman became the next pound-keeper, followed by Adolph and John Wensel, and Oscar Nielson. When



Lazy M Camrose County brand.

Oscar Nielson resigned in 1947 the pound was closed.

All animals sold at the pound were branded with a "Lazy M" on the left hip. The branding iron that was used is kept at the County Office in Camrose. All records and communications concerning animal pounds are stored at the archives in Edmonton.

Today and Yesterday

One boy who was taken to see an old, abandoned house in the district, and having been told how we had lived, said, "It must have been tough to live in those days."

But, those who lived at that time didn't think so. Making a living was a challenge and life was interesting.

Accommodation

What beautiful homes farm people have now. There is the master bedroom and often a separate bedroom for the each of the children. There are living rooms, family rooms, dining rooms, utility rooms, sewing rooms, bathrooms and even half-baths, basement recreation rooms, and patios. The modern kitchen has beautiful cupboards, fridges, and dishwashers. All this is a far cry from the pioneer home.

The early pioneer family had often only one room. Children sometimes slept in a big flat wooden box that could be shoved under the bed in the daytime. One early pioneer woman of our area told of how people from the east, travelling the long way to Wetaskiwin for supplies, would stop overnight, even in their one-room cabin. When the family was in bed, the men would bring in an armful of hay and their blankets and make a bed for themselves on some open spot on the floor. When it was possible, in a few years, a new two-storey log home might be built and later it was sided and painted.

The early barns were usually made of logs with hay or straw roofs. These were cozy and warm in winter, but in warm, rainy weather they were a mess. As soon as it was possible the pioneers made a better barn with a shingled roof.

Now, as you drive through the country, you see beautiful painted farm buildings and well-kept yards.

Transportation

Now we can fly to Europe in less than a day. Men go to the moon, walk around, and come back again. The space shuttle has orbited the earth and has come back intact. Fast trains go across our land and buses and cars take us around the country on paved highways.

In the early days in our area we, too, had many modes of transportation.

The one that was always at hand was our feet. But besides that there were the oxen. What an improvement the horse was! At first wagons or bob-sleighs were used. For family outings there were the buggies — democrats with back-seats too, if necessary. A young man going out courting would have a single buggy with a top that could be put down or put up according to the weather.

There were no bicycles to jump on when children went to visit their friends. They used their trusty feet. Often the children had to walk up to three miles to go to school. The women also had to walk when they wanted to visit a neighbor lady as the horses were being used for farm work.

The stone boat was a very versatile, cheap, all-season means of moving things, and even people, from one place to another.

Even when the first cars came into use the horse was still needed. It was often necessary for the horse to pull them out of some mud hole or even to get them started.

Illumination

Moonlight or starlight could not provide enough light inside the buildings so every house needed one or more lamps in the home and a lantern when doing chores. Some lamps stood on a base and were placed on a table or shelf while others were placed in a bracket which was fastened to the wall. To complete this lamp there was a reflector between the wall and the lamp to throw more light.

It was an everyday job to fill the lamps with coal oil, trim the wicks, and wash the chimneys.

There were many beautiful coal oil lamps with colorful bases and shades.

Aladdin invented a lamp with a metal base and bowl. It had a big mantle which was very fragile and a chimney that was tall and slender. This lamp gave the pioneers a brighter lamp than the ordinary coal oil lamp.



The Coleman lamp was the next on the market. It had a metal bowl, a generator, and two small fragile mantles. About one pint of gasoline was filled into the bowl and then air was pumped in to bring the gas up to the generator. The generator had to be heated before the gasoline valve was turned on and the mantles lit. After the lamp was lit a glass shade was put on and the lamp was hung from the ceiling. Millers and moths were a menace to the mantles.

A pressurized coal oil lamp and lantern were manufactured on the same principle as the gas lamp but were cheaper and safer to operate.



As time advanced, a more modern lighting system came into use with light plants generating electricity. This meant installing proper wiring to carry the electricity. This was a thirty-two volt system using sixteen storage batteries. The plant was a gasoline motor with a generator attached. Some plants wore the manufacturer's name of Fairbanks Morse, Delco Light, or Macleods. This was quite an im-

provement over the coal oil and gasoline lamps but only a few enjoyed this luxury.

In some areas, the power was generated from a wind-charger.

Last, but not least, rural electrification came into being. This ended the daily chore of trimming wicks and cleaning chimneys.

Medication

On a shelf in a cupboard was an assortment of remedies, the contents of which we knew only vaguely or in some cases, only too well and these were very pronounced. Two famous examples are Castor Oil and Cod Liver Oil. None of these treatments were too sought after, even though they brought a measure of relief, as sometimes the cure was worse than the cold, cough, or colic.

The bottles and jars were well within reach but no way would anyone opt for anything of that sort when the brown sugar and raisins were also within reach.

Good old Castor Oil. Every shelf had a huge bottle of this persuader. It was not only used for medicinal purposes but also to bring relief to harassed mothers — by threatening misbehaving kids with a good dose. It worked, both by threat and dosage. By the time it had worked its evil way, the contents of the digestive system must have come up — or whooped on through. One was left with little strength to do anything for a few days, especially bother Ma when she got that “Castor Oil look” in her eyes.

Other staples on the medicine shelf were horrible tasting Cod Liver Oil, Epsom Salts, Friar's Balsam (which was put in steaming water to ease chest colds), the large Watkins' tin of strong smelling Car-bolic Salve, Red Liniment (used for both man and beast), Iodine, Dodd's Kidney Pills, camphor salve, Zambuk, Fruit-a-tives, Carter's Little Liver Pills, Kuriko, and jars of goose grease. Mustard plasters were also a common remedy for chest colds.

A poultice of bread and milk was used to draw out boils and was put on infectious sores. If this did not relieve the infection, fresh cow dung was applied.

There was also a remedy for rheumatism, aches, and pains in those days. Perhaps it would work on what we call arthritis today. It was called “Ox-idoner” and was a little wooden box containing a magnet. Two cords were attached to this magnet and put through holes in the box. At the end of each cord was a hand grip. The patient held on to one hand grip in each hand while the so-called doctor turned a crank also attached to the box and magnet. As the crank was turned, shocks were sent down the cords and into the patient's hands and body. Did it work? Well, some thought it did.

If these time-proven home remedies failed, the

country doctor was summoned. He travelled by horse and buggy or sleigh, depending on the weather.

This is medicare the old-fashioned way.

Sanitation

We, who turn a tap for water to wash, push a trip to flush the toilet, plug in a vacuum cleaner to clean our floors, or press a button to wash our clothes, realize little what laborious processes our pioneers endured in order to be clean.

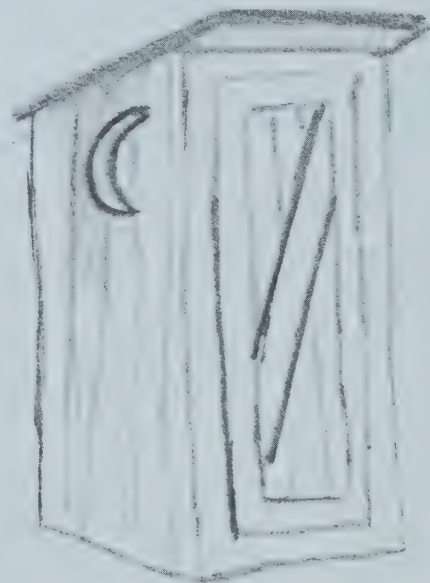
Water had to be carried into the house by pailfuls and heated in the reservoir fastened on the oven side of the stove, for clothes washing, or in a boiler set on top of the stove, for bathing. Both these jobs meant extra tracks and spills in the house.

The wooden floors and chairs were scrubbed immaculately with hot water and homemade soap. This soap was made from melted lard or tallow plus lye. Most clothes were scrubbed on a washboard and the white ones were boiled in lye water in a boiler, then rinsed and hung out to dry. What fresh smelling clothes when they were taken in!

The out-house was a unique little building usually on the north side of the house. Why? Perhaps it was hidden in the shelterbelt. It was designed somewhat as the Three Bears' home — one big one for Papa, a middle sized one for Mama, and a small one for baby. This building was also scrubbed with hot water and soap and was disinfected with creoline.

There were bathtubs but it was usually the big round wash tub. Later the Fuller Brush man came out with a tank with a hose and brush. How great in summertime when it could be set up in or behind an old granary. In winter it was back to the tub again.

Periodically the house would have to go through a



fumigation process following an epidemic. A common fumigant was formaldehyde and water, placed in a pot, and boiled for a period of time. Another fumigant was sulphur burning in beautiful colors in a shallow pan on the stove. We enjoyed the colors produced but not the choking smells or fumes.

Refrigeration

There was usually, in every house, a cool spot along the dirt wall in the cellar where perishable foods were kept.

Cuts of meat could be kept fresh, dug into the cold grain, until late in the summer.

Cream and milk and even meat were suspended in pails into the well. Cream and milk were in one-gallon syrup pails and meat was put into bags. One little city boy, who stayed on a farm one summer, thought they had a most wonderful well. Out of it they got not only fresh sparkling water, but milk and cream as well!

An even colder arrangement yet was the ice well or ice house.

Some people would dig a dug-out in a hill side, cut blocks of ice from a lake (usually Miquelon) or slough, then pack it in. This would then be covered with sawdust, straw, and rails and then a roof. Of course there was a door so one could get in and a ladder to descend as the ice receded. This was the chest-type freezer of the day.

The ice-house was similar but it was built above ground. The walls and roof were insulated with sawdust and straw and big blocks of ice were hauled in and put on the dirt floor. Shelves were built to hold the food. This was the up-right freezer of the day.

Mothers would also can quarts of fruit, vegetables, and meat to preserve them.

Recreation

There was no television to watch, or movies to go to, no indoor rinks, no mountain resorts, no parks to camp in, no ready-made games, no balls and bats, no hockey sticks and pucks, no gramophones, not even a telephone in the early days.

Oh, what a lonesome, dreary, dull time they must have had, you of today might say. But no, you're mistaken!

Books were read over and over and were carefully taken care of. The few newspapers, "The Free Press", "The Country Guide", or the "The Family Herald", were read page by page. The continued stories, serials, were kept and exchanged. There were choirs and bands that gave many hours of enjoyment. One could always find a swimming hole, even in the Stoney Creek. Balls at first were made out of string wound very tightly and maybe had a cover of worn out denim. A piece of board made an almost better bat than the modern round bat for a poor batter

had more of a chance of hitting the ball. Hopscotch took no outlay of money — you only had to find a nice colored piece of burned glass. Pee-Wee only took two sticks, usually willow sticks as they were good and tough. Pump-pump pull away, Steal Sticks, Hide-and-Go-Seek, Anti-i-over, Here We Come — oh what a variety of games could be played in the summer.

Winter had its fun too. All the children had a sleigh. Some children were even lucky enough to have a father or grandfather or an uncle who could make skis. We did many miles of cross-country skiing in those days. Skate blades could be bought and clamped on the regular shoes and away we would go.

The church took care of the spiritual needs, but it also was a time to see and talk to their neighbors. Community picnics, school picnics, Church and School Christmas programs, and league ball games were always times of togetherness. Much more visiting amongst neighbors was done in those days.

There were also building bees at which the neighbors got together to help one another thereby making short work of a long job if done alone. And who can deny that threshing was fun? Oh how exciting a time that the people of today miss!

Oh those were fun days!

Cultivation

In the early days, to clear the land the pioneer used an axe and lots of muscle power. Now, a big bulldozer cuts the trees out and piles them in rows, ready for burning.

The pioneer used a one-share walking plough to break up the land. Then began the back-breaking work of picking the roots, sometimes maybe the whole family helping out. Then disking and harrowing had to be done to prepare the soil to receive the seed. Many a young boy walked many hours behind the harrows, in the dust. Some pioneers, who had only a few acres to seed in the first years, broadcast their seed on the fields, from a bag they carried over their shoulders. Often several of the farmers, in the early days, bought a seed-drill together.

Now all of this, if anyone has virgin land, is done with big mechanized machinery and of course many more acres are cultivated.

Harvesting in the early days was not like it is today. Some may have cut their grain with a scythe and flailed it. Many who settled in our area came up from Minnesota and the Dakotas and brought what was, at that time, modern machinery. Their grain was cut by binder and stooked, then threshed with big steam engines powering the separator as some of our pictures show.

Now swathers cut the grain and combines do the

threshing. We even have grain dryers to dry the grain if it is damp.

Haying has changed from the horse-pulled mowers, racks, bucking poles, and sweeps, to hay now being cut with a self-propelled swather or haybine, and gathered by a baler.

Production

An early farm had a little of everything; grain fields, hay sloughs, cows, pigs, horses, chickens, ducks, turkeys. The fields were free of weeds and produced abundantly without fertilizer. Even the manure piles weren't needed and grew high behind the barns. When the first stinkweed appeared in the fields, the whole family, each with a pail, went through the field and picked them all out before they could go to seed.

Now the farms are different. They are bigger and quite specialized. Some have dairy cows while some don't have any milk cows. Some specialize in pigs or range cattle but also grow grains and fodder. Some have big poultry productions, both for meat and for eggs. Unlike the pioneer family, many modern rural families buy their milk, cream, butter, eggs, and meat at the local supermarket.

Cooperation

In the "olden days" men helped each other on big jobs like building a log house and barn and with the shingling. The women weren't left out; they came along to help with the serving of the food and to visit.

Threshing teams brought quite a few farmers together, working to take off each other's harvest. Our early telephone lines were built by farmers working together. In the spring the farmers helped each other saw the big piles of logs for stove wood.

The beef ring was another example of cooperation to provide fresh meat all summer, before we had refrigeration.

Roads in the early days were built by farmers, coming with a team of horses each, and being paid by an amount taken off their taxes.

Women would sometimes get together for spinning bees, carding and then spinning huge quantities of yarn for the knitting of socks and mittens. Such a "bee" was so much more fun than doing it alone at home. "Many hands make the work lighter".

Today you might say, there isn't any cooperation. But don't ladies still get together for quilting bees? And if tragedy or misfortune comes to one of our neighbors there is still that wonderful, warm, community spirit.

Education

With our centralized schools of today with their many classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and gyms and the many teachers, it's hard to know what education was like in those early days.

All the children were in one room and we were almost a family, with the bigger kids helping and loving the little ones. Each grade learned from the next higher grade or reviewed last year's work by listening to the lower grade.

That little library cupboard in the back, even though small, told us of far away countries. Who now-a-days reads of King Arthur and all those old children's classics? There were so few books but how we cherished the reader for at the end of the year it was ours to take home and keep. What good care we took of it because it was ours — our name was on it.

What wonderful memories the little white school house brings to those of us who once attended one. But how thankful we are that our children and grandchildren have the wonderful schools they have now.

Religion

Religion played a big part in the lives of our pioneers. It gave them strength to see them through their many trials and hardships, and comfort during their time of sorrows. The first services were held in homes but as soon as it was possible, churches were built and were very well supported. As time passed and farms grew in size, and fewer people lived in the surrounding area, it became necessary to consolidate congregations. Larger churches were built in nearby towns and today, on a drive through our countryside, it saddens one to see the many little old churches fallen to disuse — but still proudly pointing their spires to the sky as they silently stand guard over the final resting place of many of the pioneers mentioned in our book.

The Armena Elevators

by Herman Atema

With the coming of the railroad a new era opened up for the people in the Stoney Creek watershed. No longer was it necessary to travel many wearisome miles to market their produce. Also farmers would now increase their grain production because the railroad made the markets more accessible. Thus in turn a grain handling facility was necessary in Armena. It was fortunate that a co-operative grain handling company had recently been established in Alberta. It was the Alberta Farmers Co-operative Elevator Co. operating along lines similar to an earlier established Manitoba and Saskatchewan Co-operative, The Grain Growers Grain Co. As a consequence this company built an elevator in Armena in 1915. It no doubt was quite an exciting addition to the rural scene, this sentinel of the prairies.

According to the minutes of the first meeting of the Armena Local No. 68 of the Alberta Farmers Co-operative Elevator Co., the following directors were elected: Henry Hendrickson — president, Tommy

Movold, Anton Sware, C. B. Weisser, and Edward Lyseng who served as secretary. J. B. Erickson was the first grain buyer. Other business at this first meeting included a report that the C.N.R. would soon build a stock yard here. Interestingly at this meeting it was decided to order a car (railway box car) of flour. The needs of the people back in those days for such a large stock of flour certainly contrasts with today's domestic needs.

In the minutes of the local dated Feb. 26, 1916 they had a problem which has plagued this shipping point off and on all through its history, a shortage of box cars. Following is a quote from these minutes: "that we the local board of this Elevator wish to make a complaint against the C.N.R. for not placing any cars at Armena while Hay Lakes (first station north of here) has all the cars that they need for loading and shipping of their grain. The Merchant at Hay Lake orders a small quantity of goods and unloads them, and then he holds the car for grain. There is no Elevator at Hay Lakes, all the grain is bought by the load and loaded on the car (by the Merchant). We have not had a car at Armena since Dec. 31/15 and we do not think that is justice . . ."

At the annual convention of their company held in 1917 at the head office city, Calgary, two delegates were sent from this local. Interestingly according to the minutes of this local dated July 21, 1917, not only were delegates to go to this convention but that one delegate also attend the United Grain Growers convention. Thus the sending of delegates to both conventions is in harmony with the history of the company which that year records the amalgamation of the Grain Growers Grain Co. of Manitoba and Sask., and the Alberta Farmers Co-op Co. into the United Grain Growers. Thus was founded a strictly farmer owned shareholder company. It is hard to understand that an event of this magnitude was not specifically mentioned in this local's records.

In those early days the directors appeared to be quite active. They would regularly make requests to the C.N.R. One time they would ask for a railway depot, then an extension to the station platform, or an addition to the stockyards, etc. Then a request to their Company to build a house for the elevator agent followed. Although the suggested plans for the house were very modest, it took some twenty years to get it built.

Throughout the first twenty years of this plant's operation most of the buyers lived in the office. Certainly they had very unpretentious accommodation, but for that reason no doubt they were usually single men. The office was a favorite place for the local farmers to gather in slack periods to swap tales, discuss current events, etc. Some of the buyers in

those years were Bennie Olstad, a local man, Ed. Hendrickson, Eddie Strand, and Dick Thompson who later married a local girl Alice Lyseng. There was also Harry Tveidt who served until about 1935.

During the 1920's there were rumblings of discontent among the prairie farmers. It seems they were still unhappy with the methods of selling their grain, this in spite of having access to a co-operative grain handling company, the U.G.G. Nevertheless they wanted to market their grain in an orderly manner in preference to placing dependence on the speculative marketing system. As a result the Albert Wheat Pool was formed in 1923. This movement really swept the west and it was taken quite seriously by the local board as the minutes of Aug. 7, 1926 records the following motion which was carried: "That we instruct our delegate that the general sentiment of the shareholders is to sell the Elevator to the Pool, but for the delegate to use his own judgement if it comes to a vote". Apparently nothing came of this.

During 1927 the Searle grain Co. built an elevator to the north of the U.G.G. So now there was competition for the farmer's grain. A local man Alec Hamilton became its second buyer. He operated this plant from 1929 to 1942. Another local man to operate this elevator was Raynold Thronson from 1946 to 1953.

All the while arrangements to pool grain in the province continued apace. This led to a 40,000 bu. capacity elevator being built in 1928 by the Alberta Wheat Pool just to the south of the U.G.G. The Armena skyline certainly took on a greater significance now. The Pool's form of government was somewhat different to that of the U.G.G. in that it had no local directors. The province was divided into districts and these were represented by a director and also a delegate. No local person has served in these capacities. One of the operators of this elevator who distinguished himself for long service was Frank Olson. He was the agent for 32 years with only a war service interruption. Local men who have also served were Art Davidson and Walter Nordstrom.

In 1935 a fire started in the U.G.G. office completely destroying it. The elevator also caught fire but through the efforts of the Camrose fire department and local people it was saved. However, there was enough damage to warrant replacing it with a new plant.

The operator at that time was Martina Sproule. He was a popular agent and stayed until the mid forties. Some of the agents who succeeded him and remained for some time were Fred Bertles, Arvid Erickson, and Albert Quickstad.

In the early sixties the Searle Grain Company closed down its business in Armena. The elevator



August, 1935; U.G.G. Elevator burns down.

was subsequently sold to the U.G.G. Then in 1974 after handling 3,346,436 bu. of grain during 46 years of operation the Alberta Wheat Pool shut its doors and sold the elevator to the U.G.G. So once again the U.G.G. was the only grain handling company operating in Armena. The business casualties still did not end. In 1979 the U.G.G. head office gave notice that the Armena plant was no longer a viable operation and that plans were to close it. That came as a distinct shock to the shareholders. It was hard to accept the fact that at one time the grain trade in Armena was buoyant enough to support three families and now could not support one. It was an indication of the changing economic times. The farmers did call a meeting to protest the closing but to no avail and it was closed on July 31, 1979 after 64 years of operation. Today the elevators stand as ghosts of the past and one by one will disappear, thus will be written the finale of one facet of the history of the Stoney Creek watershed.

Arvid Erickson

Elevator Manager at Armena

I came to Armena in 1951 to replace Mr. Peder-son, who had been stationed there for one year. Previous to that, Fred Birtles and M. Sproule had been located there. While Mr. Sproule was manager a new elevator and a new dwelling had been built. The dwelling at that time was a two-bedroom home, which had only cost \$700 to construct.

Prior to moving to Armena I had been stationed at

Navarre, which was south of Wetaskiwin; Provost, and Hanna.

I enjoyed every bit of my fourteen years stationed in Armena, dealing with a group of super customers who were there.

In 1965 we moved to Camrose, replacing Mr. Tien, who then retired.

In 1973 I received my gold watch for 25 years of service with United Grain Growers. Also, I was in the top ten for farm supply sales.

In 1982 I was fortunate enough to win a 30 year merit award with Affiliated Fire Inspection Bureau.

Anyway, in 1982 the old man is still in the grain business and in fair health.

Reflections

by Bennie Lomnes

When I think back to my boyhood days on the farm in the Armena district certain people, not residents of the area, transients if you wish to call them so, come to mind. I would like to reminisce on some of these.

One of these was Louie Olson. Where he came from I don't know. But came he did. Several times each summer he came driving through with his yoke of oxen, named Jerry and Tom, if I remember correctly, and his lumber wagon. He didn't have any merchandise to sell nor was he looking for work. He just came to visit, visits that usually lasted for several days. He was quite a favorite with we children, giving us lots of advice, some of which I will relate later. When I was a boy of about four and busy as little boys usually are at this age and full of questions, I had to be out keeping an eye on what was happening around the yard. This day Louie was watering his oxen at the water trough with little me tagging right along with him. Always curious I asked how he milked the oxen because they didn't look like our cows. His answer has given me many a chuckle



Louis Olson's "home-sweet-home"!

since. It was simply that oxen had purses in which they kept money they gave to the cows with which to buy calves.

Louie's only property I remember him having besides his oxen and wagon was a gramophone and a number of records and gave us a concert. Guess this was in lieu of payment for his stay. His favorite records seemed to be "Climbing Up the Golden Stairs" and "Silver Bells." He also had a number of records by Carstein Vold, in Norwegian. We kids used to think these evenings quite all right as a gramophone wasn't part of our home entertainment, not so though with Grandpa Lomnes. He'd just grunt "Uph" go into the other room with his Norona (a Norwegian newspaper) and close the door.

Where Louie spent the winters I don't know, but next summer we'd sort of be looking for him to show up again, and show up he did.

Charlie Johnson, the Syrian peddler (the Johnson name was a mystery) also comes to mind. I was just a small boy when Charlie the Peddler first came walking to our place. He had a box about 2 ft. by 2 ft. fitted with drawers and trays for his merchandise: needles, pins, cheap costume jewelry, etc., strapped on his back. I thought it was such a beautiful box because it was lined with purple velvet. Later he carried two boxes, one on his back and one on his front.

Later Charlie travelled by horse and buggy. His line of merchandise now included clothing and yard goods. As business improved for Charlie so did his means of transportation. He now had a team of horses and a democrat. Charlie was a man known all around the country as he travelled far and wide. He liked to flatter the Scandinavian women with Norwegian phrases as he tried to sell them clothing and dress goods. Never did Charlie stay overnight at our house without leaving a generous gift for mother and candy for us kids.

In later years Charlie began to buy goods such as hides, chickens and eggs from the farmers. It was a common thing to see Charlie coming down the road with his democrat piled high with chicken crates. The chickens did sometimes cause Charlie trouble. Once he upset his crates in the Martin Lyseng yard and the chickens escaped into the spruce windbreak to the north of the Lyseng house. The next few hours found Charlie both crawling and running around and under the spruce trees catching chickens. As all who knew Charlie would expect, those chickens were called every vile name possible in both the English and Syrian languages. Finally the chickens were all captured and crated. And who was the most exhausted, the chickens or Charlie? I'd say it was a draw.

One spring day Charlie stopped his rig in the Lomnes yard. While he was at the house talking to Mother, the horse bolted and on a gallop set off into the field. For the next half hour, Charlie who was not a young man now, on the run chased that team until he finally caught up to it. With Charlie in the driver's seat, the trip back to the house was made in faster time than the time going out. Charlie was now the master.

Charlie was a peddler who was known and respected by people everywhere he went.

Another traveller through the community was Mr. Holmstein. He was a tradesman: a tinker and scissors grinder. His trade didn't have much to interest and fascinate little boys, because father was pretty handy at mending pots and pans with the soldering iron. But I recall Mr. Holmstein tinning Mother's copper boiler. I remember how bright and shining the bottom became, almost like silver. If there was an exceptionally old soldering job to be done, it was usually left for Mr. Holmstein.

Oh yes, I mustn't forget the Neil Brothers who were wholesale grocers. Either one of the brothers or one of their salesmen would come around and take orders for dried fruit such as prunes, raisins, apples and apricots. These were sold by the box. I'm sure boxes were at least twenty-five pounders. Then there were samples of many varieties of roasted coffee beans. These were ordered by the barrel. Before each time coffee was to be cooked, coffee was freshly ground in the little coffee grinder. It was a great day when these orders were delivered, not the coffee but the dried fruit. Here I'm speaking as a little boy saw it. Sneaking around into the storeroom and snitching dried fruit was the order of the day (great if one wasn't caught).

The Past

by Inez Thronson Franzen

"Think of the past, of the time long ago, ask your father to tell you what happened, ask the old men (women too remember) to tell you of the past." taken from Deut. 32:7 and also 32:13, "The Lord alone led his people, without the help of foreign gods." Yes, we give thanks to the Lord, who cared for the faithful all through the centuries, perhaps most of all we think of those hardy souls who came to the great land of Canada, doing so much to develop the resources found there. No time was wasted, building homes, settling in to a life work, erecting churches dotting the countryside to proclaim to all that God's Word, Jesus Christ was a spiritual need to every one. Our family did not speak a foreign language and Swedish was used in Fridhem until sometime in the twenties. When Rev. Gronberg announced there would be wor-

ship, it sounded like “Good Chance” to me. I can still hear Mama’s chuckle when I asked her what he meant. My first experience of Jul Otta — early Christmas morning service at Wilhelmina, at age twelve is unforgettable. It was a wonderful worship service; the beautiful liturgy, singing and sermon all in Swedish, thrilled me and Christmas Day was very special. In those days Christmas had a much truer meaning — the birthday of Christ.

The churches provided much to social life — dinners, picnics and programs. And weren’t the Luther League meetings at the various churches great? What a lot of dates were made then. The Luther League conventions too! One year Fridhem entertained and we hosted two boys and two girls. My sisters and I slept in a tent that week to make room. 1931, at Wilhelmina, brought up a big rain storm. On our way home that evening, our car began slipping sideways in mud on a hill. The car was left, Chester spent the night in the neighbor’s hay mow and we girls walked four miles plus, in the mud, rain and darkness, carrying our shoes, barefoot was tough — wearing nylons was ludicrous. They wore out and the mud oozed in and on top of our feet! Mom met us at the door — long after midnight. I hope we all saw a bright side! We got cleaned up, pressed and dry and attended convention the next day. Those were the days of mud roads!

Oh, we had the opposite too — dust storms! Teaching at Lyseng school I wore a raincoat to keep the dust out. We often walked in the ditch when visibility was poor to avoid traffic which was possibly coming.

I enjoyed the few years teaching at Brandland and Lyseng schools.

It was a sad year that ended that activity when Helmer told me that the doctor had discovered T.B. in his system — our hopes and plans were gone for a life together. When he left his home for treatment, I went to Edmonton to work. As time has passed, it seems clear that God had a hand in all that has transpired since. To Him, frustrations, sorrow, confusions could be poured out, but not to others. Well, I married a pastor, and that became the solution and ending of my early days in the Lundemo district.

Tramps

During the depression years, in our area, men were often seen, carrying a pack on their backs, trudging along the road or sitting resting under a tree.

These men could find no work and there were no unemployment benefits to be gotten. They often jumped on a freight train and rode long distances, maybe to parts of the country where conditions were



not so bad. Some of them had been on the “soupline” and were tired of that life so they took to the country to literally beg. Many had a similar story to tell of having worked in a stone quarry in Ontario where they became maimed while working. There were those who did have a limp or a crippled arm. But the truth of it was that there was no work for them and they had to eat.

In the mid-thirties, west of the C.N.R. station in Camrose, in the fall, one could come upon a quite big camp of these hoboos — sleeping on the ground, cooking in soup cans over small open fires. At places like that I’m sure notes were compared as to districts where they would be given food and kindness.

There was quite a stir in one farm home when, as the family were having a late supper a strong knock was heard. Upon opening the door they saw a strong, husky Negro who asked for a meal. No one was refused and this man was no exception. This farm family had a very small house but the Negro was given some warm blankets and allowed to sleep in the hayloft.

Sometimes they would offer to split wood or carry water in payment of accommodation.

These people bore many names which perhaps were not a credit to them or to us who named them — tramps, bums, vagabonds, hoboos.

Perhaps though, we did entertain angels unaware.

Another such person was the itinerant tin soldering man. He made his rounds between Armena, Kingman and Hay Lakes. For a sum of money, plus room and board for himself and his horse he would solder the housewife's kettles and tubs, and treat the children to peppermints or gingersnap cookies.

We also had pedlars who came regularly. What fun, for the children anyway, when Charlie, the pedlar brought in his big suitcase, opened it up on the floor, and there was displayed almost a whole clothing store (or so it seemed to us)! If he didn't have what we wanted, Charlie had more cases in the back of his covered buggy.

There were other pedlars, too, selling clothes, even newspaper subscriptions and buying or trading for horse tail and mane.

The Watkins and Rawleigh man came around regularly. Some claimed Rawleigh's to be the best, others swore by Watkin's products. Spices were so much better than any that were bought in town, the ladies said.

The Fuller brush man brought every imaginable brush and cleaner right to our doorstep.

For a while we had a bread man that came twice a week with fresh bread.

Sometimes a fruit man drove around the country selling many kinds of fruit. There were also fish pedlars.

Most pioneer people welcomed these itinerants not only for their wares but for the neighborhood news they brought. The children, too, could hardly wait for the cases to be opened, displaying all those treasures.

Now there are no longer any such interesting characters travelling around the country. All our needs are met in Camrose and Edmonton where in all the stores we get a great variety of foods and dry goods.

Gypsies

"Gypsies are a peculiar race of people made up of numerous wandering tribes scattered throughout the world. They are known among themselves as "Romani" which is derived from the Egyptian word meaning man and woman. This name seems to imply their descent from the early Egyptians but their language, which is the same among the wandering companies in all countries, indicates descent from the people of India, probably from the Hindus. They have been able to preserve their identity and language in a remarkable degree. Their musical skill is remarkable and many of their melodies have become incorporated with the most noted operas and cantatas."(1.)



"Gypsies have the strong bodies and dark skin usually possessed by people living in the open. Their hair and eyes are jet-black, their teeth are very white. In youth they are not unattractive but ugliness overtakes them early. Their nomadic habit interferes with settled occupations. The men are horse traders, and the women make baskets and tell "fortunes". They seem to have no definite religion. Their marriage ceremony is of the simplest and is not binding on the part of the husband if he tires of his wife. The children grow up in idleness and acquire habits of stealing and cheating. Gypsies are popularly supposed to be addicted to the vice of child-stealing mainly for the ransom money."(2.)

Yes we had gypsies. They came through our area, sometimes camping just outside the hamlet. Mothers warned their children not to go too close for they were said to sometimes steal white children. At least this kept the children from going to visit them. The gypsies were frequently seen at fairs, at Chautauquas telling fortunes, selling fruits and their wares. The men would perform sleight of hand tricks for exhibition purposes, or engage in trading, maybe horse trading. There is an old poem about gypsies that ends,

"Where he comes from, nobody knows,
And where he goes to, but on he goes."

And that was the way it was. Their tents were taken down and away they disappeared in their covered wagons as inconspicuously as they had arrived.

(1.) Quote from the New Teacher's and Pupils 'Cyclopedia

(2.) Quote from the New General Encyclopedia.

Itinerants

The Indians were our first itinerants. In their never ending following of the buffalo they camped by every stream, by every slough or creek, or lake. Each tribe seemed to almost stake out their own hunting ground. In the last years before the white men came there were mostly Cree Indians in our area. There are no records but very likely they camped not only along the Battle River but along the Stoney Creek and by the sloughs and lakes in the Armena and Baldenstein area. They came, went, and came again and must have covered our whole area. As the buffalo cleaned out the grass in one area they moved on, and the Indians followed. The buffalo has been said to have been the Indians' department store. From it they got leather for tents, robes, shoes; sinew for thread, bones for awls, needles, cutlery; meat fresh and dried and made into pemmican. But when the white men came the buffalo disappeared and the way of life for the prairie Indians changed.

From the early 1890's and on, when our area began to be settled, Indians would come up to the settlers' homes wanting to exchange fresh berries or pemmican and even fresh meat for the white man's food. The women and children may have been frightened but no one was hurt in any way by the Indians, who were especially fascinated by white children.

As late as 1940's Indians were known to pass through our area. A democrat or wagon pulled by skinny horses, with long tails and manes could be seen along the roads. The men had their wives and big families along. They would camp on the road allowances. While some were setting up camp, (that was women's work) others would pay a visit to the nearest neighbor begging for food such as bread and eggs. They especially liked the home-made bread and if given one loaf they would, without doubt, ask for another by putting up two fingers.

The farm people may have been uneasy about having such close neighbors, especially at night but no one was harmed. The Indians were very likely just passing through to another reservation.

Now, although the Indians live on reservations, they have houses like ours, dress like we do, drive cars, and farm with the same machinery as we do.

But they still love horse racing, stampedes, and dressing up in their costumes for gala occasions.

An Encounter with a Bear

by Nels Grue

While my father Thore S. Grue was operating his sawmill on the north shore of Miquelon Lake in the early days, it became necessary to do some scouting around for suitable trees to be cut into logs. At this time it was brother Lars and Ole Skaret who were to

do the job. When suitable trees were located they would be marked with the axe, to be cut down later, to be brought to the mill as needed.

As these two scouts descended a very steep incline, with snow on the ground, it became almost impossible for them to remain on their feet. Ole was in the lead, and suddenly a cry was heard, "I nearly slid into a bear's den!" As he got his bearing and turned to look down into the den, the face of a sleepy bear was clearly visible.

With quite some excitement they returned to the camp, and made plans to evict the creature from its winter quarters. One of the boys was sent home to the farm to bring the big game rifle and the lariat.

On arriving back, the lariat was placed around the mouth of the den, while men were to hold onto the rope. Ole Skaret was to occupy the front position, just above the mouth of the den. He was to be armed with a woodsman's axe. These were of course precautionary measures, should the marksman miss his aim, in which case the den would be filled with smoke, making it impossible for a second shot. Father was in charge of the rifle!

"Let me take you on a short detour at this point as we look at the surrounding district seventy-eight years later.

Today we may step into our automobiles and travel on a paved highway to a beautiful "Provincial Park" located on the south-east shore of Miquelon Lake. It is often overpopulated with visitors and those who spend weekends, and others who spend longer periods of their summer holidays there.

As we stand in the park visualize with me if you will! As we look across the lake to a central point on the north shore, we see a sawmill; with cook-car, bunk sleeping car, operated by my father and my older brothers, sawing lumber for the arriving settlers seventy-eight years ago! We go now into the woods. We find the hill, the den, the setting as already described."

Now we go back to the attempt to dislodge the bear. As the rifle was discharged there were many tense moments of waiting for the smoke to clear. When it finally cleared and a stampede did not materialize, the animal could be clearly seen lying in the same position as if it had never moved.

The question arose at this point, "Who will go down and place the lariat around the bear's neck?" Brother Lars volunteered to go down. The bear seemingly dead, could easily have had enough spark left to oppose an intruder. As for me it would have been a far more pleasant task had the bear been endtunned.

When it was finally brought up into daylight, it became clear it was a large, old bear, as the beard on

his face had turned white. I am sorry I was considered too young to have a part in this most interesting episode.

The carcass was then loaded into the bobsled and was taken by team to the farm on section 8, which was often referred to as "Hudson Bay" while we were still living on the homestead north of Armena, as this section was purchased from the "Hudson's Bay Co."

News of the hunt spread quickly. A dear neighbor lady paid us a visit, and before returning home, made it known she would like a sample of this new game. This was of course willingly granted.

On the following Sunday our family was invited over to have dinner with the Andersons. The conversation naturally centered about the bear hunt. Some one remarked that bear meat was suitable for human consumption. At this point the head of the household remarked, "I have never eaten bear's meat, and I never will!" His good wife quickly remarked, "You had bear's meat for breakfast this morning." I am sure there would be no need of me to try to picture the look on the faces, not only of the head of the house but of all present. Hearty laughter followed, much to the satisfaction of his dear, but mischievous wife.

Before the carcass of the bear was brought to its final destination, its black fur coat was removed and nailed to the granary wall, where it remained for a time to cure. It was later taken down and rolled, like one would roll a carpet. It was then taken to a fur dealer, and was disposed of for the sum of \$12.50.

Events of Interest

Many events of interest transpired in the span of time which lies between the covers of this book. Telephone, radio, television and later cable T. V., and microwave and convection ovens are just a few.

In the field of travel we have progressed from oxen to horses, to cars, and to airplanes. We first powered our machines by steam and moved on to gasoline, to distillates, and to diesel. We send our astronauts of today to outer space, to walk on the moon, in less time than it took some of the early pioneers to travel from Camrose to Wetaskiwin for supplies.

The discovery and use of drugs such as Banting's insulin, or Fleming's penicillin, or Salk's vaccine for polio have saved countless lives. The discovery and use of pacemakers and open-heart surgery has allowed many to continue to enjoy life. Hip replacements, kidney machines and transplants, and cornea transplants have also enabled many to carry out their

daily routines. In comparison with the x-rays of yesterday, the ultra-sound scans are far more effective and safer. Babies can now "get their start" in a test-tube; several have been born, including a set of twins, and are as healthy as those conceived the "old-fashioned way".

Oil was discovered in our area and brought both commerce and people to our towns. Our government is manufacturing nuclear power and we have missiles in our country to protect us in times of danger.

The legal age for voting in our elections and the drinking age was lowered to eighteen years.

Prices

Listed are some of the 1941-1942 prices:

Butter — 30¢ per pound, when buying
— 9¢ per pound homemade, when traded in on groceries at Red and White in Camrose.
50 lb. of special cream @ 30¢ — \$4.68
1 load of hay — \$5.00
Oats — 33¢ per bushel
Wheat, grade 3 — 67¾¢ per bushel
Barley, #1 feed — 40½¢ per bushel
Bologna — 17¢ per lb.
2 lbs. raisins — 27¢
2 Chantecler (cigarette papers) — 20¢
2 lbs. brown sugar — 21¢
4 lbs. jam — 45¢
2 lbs. prunes — 29¢
4 tins sardines — 25¢
60 rods hog-wire — \$29.60
2 boxes Bran Flakes — 23¢
1 lb. coffee — 35¢
5 boxes Jello powder — 25¢
½ lb. cheese — 16¢
20 lbs. sugar — \$1.79
Tin of tobacco — 65¢
6 lbs. hamburger — 70¢
1 snuff — 15¢
1 pair of men's shoes — 4.65
2 loaves of bread — 18¢
1 dozen oranges — 23¢
1 pair overalls — \$1.88
1 pair stockings — 20¢
Pork liver — 15¢ per lb.
Cod fish — 25¢ per lb.
7 weasel skins — \$8.00
4 hogs — \$100.32
Corn broom — 29¢
3260 lbs. of coal — \$4.00
Lamp chimney — 15¢
5 bars soap — 25¢
Show, "Always In My Heart" at Dreamland — 40¢
Gas — 36¢ per gallon
Cassia — 10¢
1 gallon red paint — \$4.50
Radio license — \$2.00
Hair permanent at Fowler's Beauty Parlor in Camrose — \$4.00
100 lbs. flour — \$2.95
1 box Macintosh apples — \$2.60
Registered sow — \$60.00
20-month-old Shorthorn bull — \$40.00
Taxes on SE 8-48-20 W4 — \$32.00

1908

Pretty Hills News

Mrs. Rosenhahl and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lyseng one day last week.

Miss Mary Anderson of Haley, B.C. is visiting friends and relatives at Pretty Hill.

The Wilson Bros., have opened up a coal mine seven miles northeast of Camrose, and the coal is the best that has been found in this part of the country.

David Anderson called on Henry Rosendahl last Sunday.

The Lutheran church choir gave a necktie social at the Lutheran church Dec. 8th which proved a great success.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lyseng accompanied by Albert Lyseng and family visited at Rosendahl's last Sunday.

A coffee social will be given at Mr. Grunberg's place next Sunday evening. They will have a large program and a good time is anticipated.

Ludvig Lyseng who had an operation on his left hand last week, is doing fine.

A crowd of young folks visited Gust Andersons last Sunday.

Miss Hilma Anderson visited Mrs. Jim Erickson last Monday.

There will be a basket social at Thronsons next Friday evening, everybody welcome.

Victor Anderson and his sister Alma called at Rosendahl's last Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Anderson are the proud possessors of a baby girl, born Dec. 6th.

Clifford Wilson is not the visitor at Gossey Lake, he used to be! I wonder why?

The Telegraph Line

by Herman Atema

In the early 1870's the C.P.R. showed great interest in the west. They sent many parties of surveyors to work here. Finally by 1875 they felt they had found a satisfactory route for the Canadian Pacific railways first transcontinental rail line.

From Battleford it came just north of Viking, continued straight west by the north side of Lake Demay and through the northern part of the Stony Creek watershed curving around the south end of the Beaver Hills and on west past Hay Lakes.

It appeared that the C.P.R. was serious about this route as they built a Telegraph line along it in 1875. Its westerly office was located on the South west side of Little Hay Lake. Apparently the choice of route was a good one as the freighting trail followed it. Previously the trail ran 35 miles north.

Trouble shooting on this line must have been



Insulator from Battleford-Hay Lakes telegraph line, 1875. It was found on the John Thronson farm. There are no threads inside the insulator; it is just wedged on the peg.

quite a challenge. Not only did they have to contend with bad weather, but the many buffalo caused considerable damage. They would occasionally rub down the poles and then run across the prairie with the wire on their horns.

Had the railroad been constructed along this route the impact on this area would have been tremendous. Settlement would have been advanced ten to twenty years in the Stony Creek watershed.

The route was suddenly moved two hundred miles south. It went over the bald prairies and through two difficult mountain passes, the Kicking Horse and Rogers, while it could have gone through the lush Battle River watershed and the gentle sloped Yellowhead Pass. Historians hint there may have been some politics involved.

When the railroad together with a telegraph line was built from the transcontinental railway at Calgary to Edmonton, the old telegraph line was left in a state of disrepair and finally abandoned. When settlement of the Stony Creek watershed occurred only a few remnants of the telegraph line remained.

Alberta Livestock Co-operative (A.L.C.)

A business that flourished for a time in Armens was the local branch of the A.L.C. Because of greatly increased livestock production during the second World War it served a very important function. It started out as an organization to pool livestock at various railway points to cut down handling costs and

also to command better prices because of volume selling.

It was organized locally in 1941. Some of the first directors were Ewald Soderstrom, Herman Atema, Carl Anderson and Vernon Thronson. The first shipper was Robert Lyseng, then in the fall of 1942 Herman Atema took over and remained till fall of 1945.

There was a large increase in livestock production due to increase in price and Gov't incentives so on the average 100 hogs and a number of cattle were shipped from this point each week. Other reasons for the good volume was the lack of all weather roads and that there were few trucks produced for civilian use, due to the all out war effort. So especially during the war this business filled a real need.

Late in 1945 Oscar Grue took over as shipper. Then the war ended and trucks came back into production and roads were improved also farmers relaxed their all out production efforts, causing volume to decrease. This resulted in the closing down of the A.L.C. at this shipping point in about 1948 or 1949.

The A.L.C. gradually failed and in the late seventys went into receivership.

The Armena 4-H Beef Club

by David Stollery

The Armena 4-H Beef Club was formed in the year of 1953. Vernon Lyseng instituted the first organization of the 4-H movement in this community, and was the first club leader, continuing in that position for eight years. Helping in the original organization was Austin Youngberg, a school teacher in Armena at the time and the district Agriculturist, Frank Moisey. Serving on the adult committee were Oliver Grue, Bert Stollery and Ed Wensel as Jr. leader. Some of the charter members were: Larry Lyseng, Joan and John Stollery, Waldmer and Edward Wensel, Delmar Skaret, Rupert and Elwood Wenig, William Zeller, Alice Severson, Dennis Marsh and Delores Olson.

David Stollery became the leader in 1961 with the help of an adult committee consisting of Rod Skaret, Lyle Lyseng, Nolan Lyseng, Marville Skaret until the year of 1965 when Nolan Lyseng took the leadership role for one year. David and Nolan shared the leadership for the next three years. Lloyd Grahn became the next 4-H leader in 1969 until 1972, with Norman Moe, Cal Lyseng and Malcolm Lyseng as his able assistants. Cal Lyseng assumed leadership in 1972 with his brother, Nolan again taking over in 1973-74. Malcolm Lyseng used his agricultural expertise in 4-H leadership in 1975, with Don Smith following as leader for three years — 1976 to 1978.

Gail Winder, the present 4-H leader assumed the position in 1979. Some of her able assistants have been Con Winder, Bill Wilson, Otto Streberg and Marville and Dolores Skaret.

Larry Williams, who became District Agriculturist in this area in 1954 worked with the 4-H clubs for the next twenty years. His interest and enthusiasmm for the 4-H movement gave long lasting benefit to many 4-H members through the years.

The Armena club started out as a local community group but gradually evolved to encompass 4-H members from a widespread area — Bittern Lake, New Sarepta, North Camrose, Miquelon Lake regions. Some of the hi-lites through the years have been Nolan Lyseng winning grand champion calf in the Camrose 4-H regional show in the years 1958 and 1959; Linda Skaret with the grand champion in 1962. The club also prided itself on their record-keeping abilities, winning for several years the trophy for the best kept records. It also had several wins in the Camrose regional show with "Groups of Five" over the years. The Armena Club has had some excellent showmen, coming out in the top three spots in stiff competition in Camrose — Nolan and Cal Lyseng, Mardell Skaret, to name a few.

The Club has been involved in many activities throughout the years, both within the club and in the community at large. Public speaking has been one important activity at 4-H meetings. Linda Skaret won a prize as top public speaker in the Camrose area one year. Achievement Days have always been well attended by the community. Besides being involved with other 4-H clubs in social get-togethers, the Armena club has in recent years participated in the spring highway clean-up campaign. It may be stated that the Armena 4-H Beef Club has been a valuable service to two generations of young people as well as to the community at large.

Farmer's Lament or The Milking Blues by Nelvin Thronson

Oh! I want a vacation, seems as how,
I'd like to take off from the old hay mow!
Can't make a move, till I ask the cow.

Want a night out, go on a spree,
Where are the cows? Oh mercy me!
At the far end of the pasture they're sure to be.

There's a hole in the fence, far horizons look
greener.

You ask your neighbour, has anyone seen her?
If I had me a gun, I'd sure like to bean her!

I wonder at times at the motions you make,
Your tail you do wiggle, your body you shake.
You keep marking time as your milk I take.

I wonder old dear, are you growing bolder,
As you rest yourself upon my shoulder?
Do you wonder why, my love grows colder?
Milking's all finished and without a care
You saunter along with tail in the air.
There's a long greasy trail from here to there!
I was wondering then as I'm wondering now —
Can anyone fathom the mind of a cow?
Just how do you fathom, the mind of a cow?

Tidbits of Farming History by Mildred Hallgren

In the early 1900's threshing the farmer's crop of wheat, oats or barley was done by steam engine and separator outfits. The threshing operations began as soon as the sheaves of grain had seasoned in stooks in the fields in the fall. They were picked up by crews of up to seventeen bundle racks. The piling of these bundles on the racks was a work of expertise, as a lop-sided load soon invited disaster and more work, and what was worse, disrupted timing in coming into the machine. The threshing machine was usually set close to the farm barns, as the straw pile provided feed and shelter for the farm stock in winter time. The grain that flowed from the separator spout into waiting grain boxes on wagons, was then hauled to granaries and unloaded by hand-power. The threshing machine owner-operator was the boss of the crew, these crews were individual farmers who worked as a unit to get each other's crops threshed.

In the early days when not all farmers had fair-sized acreages, the small farmer would stack his crop in beehive stacks and the thresher man would complete his autumn's work doing these jobs, often times in snow. This type of threshing required only a few men to get the job done.

The steam engines were fire-powered by wood. Straw could also be used. Owner-operators of these steam engine threshers this writer knew were Ed Thompson of Kingman, Theodore and Anton Thronson of Lundemo, and Knut Lyseng of Armena. These "engineers" were self-taught in the intricacies of steam power and what made the machines run, and took special pride in their equipment. There was no time for break-downs at the crucial harvest season!

As time passed, the government stepped in with its "red tape", asking the operators if they had licenses to run their steam-powered machines. The story goes that one such "whipper-snapper" asked Ed Thompson of Kingman, a veteran of some thirty years at running his outfit, if he had a "paper" to show that he could run it? Mr. T. thought for a moment, then came up with the bright observation that "Yes, he had Dekora Posten." The Dekora

Posten was a now long defunct Norwegian newspaper put out by a printing firm in Winnipeg and faithfully read by the many Norwegian settlers in Western Canada at that time. The "government" man departed, shaking his head.

When tractors came into use in the late 1920's, many farmers got them to run the threshing separators and the large crews became a thing of the past.

Refrigeration for the farm home food, and the cream produced by the numerous milkcows on every farm in the farming days up to the 1950's, when electrical power became available, had to be provided by the "ice harvest", in the wintertime. The large blocks of ice were sawed by bucking saw on the lake, and hauled home to the "ice house", most of the farmers made themselves. These houses had two feet or so thick sawdust filled walls and sawdust on the ceiling under the roof. This writer, altho' a woman, due to shortage of man-power in the second World War years, had to learn the intricacies of handling the blocks of ice and storing them. Nearly every winter some unfortunate man got a dunking in the ice-cold lake water in the ice harvest operations. This ice-cutting was usually done in sub-zero weather and any body unfortunate enough to fall in, had to race for a neighboring house to avoid freezing stiff. No fatalities were ever recorded.

Rural Mail

The mail-man on R.R. #1 from Kingman served subscribers along the way and also Lundemo Post Office until it was closed in 1949. Deliveries were made on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Later, the delivery days were changed to Tuesdays and Fridays.

Tom E. Rogness came by car in the summer and horses in the winter. The children always tried to be at the mail box because Tom usually had some peppermints to treat them.

Stanley Rogness served for a short time.

Thomas Rogness came by team and buggy in summer, cutter in winter.

Henry Gunderson came mostly by car. The roads were sometimes impossible so the neighbors along the route were called to meet him and take the mail the rest of the way. Melvin Severson was often called to complete the deliveries on horseback to those on his line.

In later years the roads were improved and gravelled and snow plowing was done for school busses. This made the Rural Route system much more reliable.

On November 27, 1965 the R.R. #1 from Kingman was discontinued and R.R. #2 was started from Camrose. Bob and Aletha Wennerstrom became the mail-carriers and are still on the job.

The Armena Rural Electrification Association (R.E.A.)

H. Atema

During the second World War an experimental R.E.A. was established east of Olds, Alberta. Incidentally, a native of Camrose, LeRoy Fowler, was in charge of it. This experiment proved practical and the seed was sown.

It was in 1948 that a few farmers around Armena arranged a meeting of all those interested in setting up an R.E.A. here. A date was set and it was well advertised, even an announcement on CFRN radio, but to their dismay a severe blizzard blocked the roads so no meeting ensued. The thing was temporarily dropped. About a year later another meeting was arranged, to be held in the Scandia Church basement. There was a good turnout and a Board of Directors was elected. They were Herman Atema, Bert Stollery, Tom Pelz, Lester Lomnes, Ewald Soderstrom, Victor Pelz, Vernon Lyseng, and Robert Young. The first president was Herman Atema and Bert Stollery served as secretary-treasurer.

More public meetings were held with representatives from the Provincial Government Co-operatives Branch and Calgary Power's Farm Electric Services attending.

After these meetings, the directors were well armed with information which was essential as a tough selling job faced them. It should be understood that this business was a totally new thing in the country. Many at that time did not fully appreciate the value of electric power on the farm. Some felt it would be too costly, others felt it should be publicly owned. There were those who felt it was loaded in favor of the power companies. Nevertheless, these objections had to be overlooked if the goal was to be attained. By perseverance 41 subscribers were eventually signed up.

The estimated cost per hookup was then established. The amount being \$1025.00. Now another problem surfaced. The provincial government's only help towards these projects was their backing of a bank loan at a low 3½% interest, but the R.E.A. had to come up with half cash in order to qualify. In order to acquire this amount there were payments of all cash down to a low of \$25.00. The down payment was lowered to some who were in strategic locations as an incentive to subscribe, so the average line distance would keep the project economically viable. Incidentally that low rate of interest is still in force today for new subscribers.

The preliminaries were now completed so a master contract between the Armena R.E.A. and Farm Electric services (a subsidiary of Calgary Power) was signed. Financial arrangements were made with

the Bank of Montreal, this was shortly changed to the Prov. Government Treasury Branch because of economics.

Now all systems were "go" so was thought. First of all the power line right of way was to be surveyed. This brought to the surface other problems. Some non-subscribers were reluctant to allow the line to pass over their land. Alberta Gov't Telephones claimed the power lines that paralleled their main line would cause reception interference, so had to install the lines back in the farms or reroute them entirely.

These problems solved, the right of way had to be brushed. As this was not included in the original estimate it was done on a voluntary basis. The installing of anchors and poles was done by some of the subscribers. An hourly wage of eighty cents was established but the project got started so late in 1950, the ground was frozen, necessitating extra labour to pick the ground ahead of the digger. To counteract the extra expense so as to stay within the budget, the hourly wage was reduced to sixty cents. A private contractor was hired to string the wires and Mr. George Currie from Farm Electric Services supervised all phases of line construction.

In spite of snow, low temperatures, and frozen ground, the power line was finally finished. It was energized January 1951. Most every subscriber felt well rewarded when they could illuminate their homes by a flick of a switch.

For the next few months the area was swamped with appliance salesmen and of course the traditional vacuum cleaner salesman was first on the scene. The purchasing of a large appliance such as a fridge made news in those days, sometimes making the local news column of the weekly newspaper.

The following spring, neighboring farm groups became interested in joining the Armena R.E.A. so it was back to meetings again. An additional 224 subscribers were added to the area. At the first annual meeting of the enlarged area held on June 11, 1952 in Hay Lakes, there were 265 members. In order to have this larger area equitably represented, it was divided into three zones with three directors elected from each zone.

The power was turned on in the new areas in February of 1953. Don Gillespie was the first trouble shooter.

The directors were quite happy with the results as there was a substantial refund bringing the net cost down to \$743.50 per subscriber. Certainly a far cry from today when most costs are underestimated. This favorable installation cost was not an accident but indicates the economical manner in which the project was handled. Further proof of this was the fact that all the original organizers and also the directors

who served this R.E.A. for the first 10 years of its operation did so entirely without compensation of any kind.

This R.E.A. is one of the larger ones in Alberta. It extends from Camrose to west of New Sarepta with 500 subscribers. On its twenty-fifth anniversary, a supper was held and the original board members were feted. None of them are serving today.

North West Utilities

After all those years of dependence upon wood and coal for fuel, it seemed almost too good to be true when the Alberta Government offered to provide natural gas to farmers. They would pay a substantial grant for each installation, and supply the gas at a very reasonable price.

Gas Co-ops were organized in 1974 or 1975 to oversee the venture. Easements were signed from land owners for the right to bury transmission lines. The cost could be paid in a lump sum of about \$1260.00 or by installments. North West Utilities was chosen as the company name. They have provided good service to their customers.

The Co-op board looks after the day to day problems. A yearly meeting is called for all members for information and a chance to discuss operations.

The construction company used special machines for burying the lines at a safe depth underground. Heavy caterpillar tractors pulled the plow which also carried a large reel of plastic pipe. This slowly unwound as the machine moved along the surveyed line and placed the pipe in the ground. As each reel ended, a new one was mounted and the ends were fused together, to make a continuous line. The joint was made by another crew with special tools and heat equipment. Taps were made at each farm to carry the gas in smaller lines to each meter.

Some members were already using propane gas



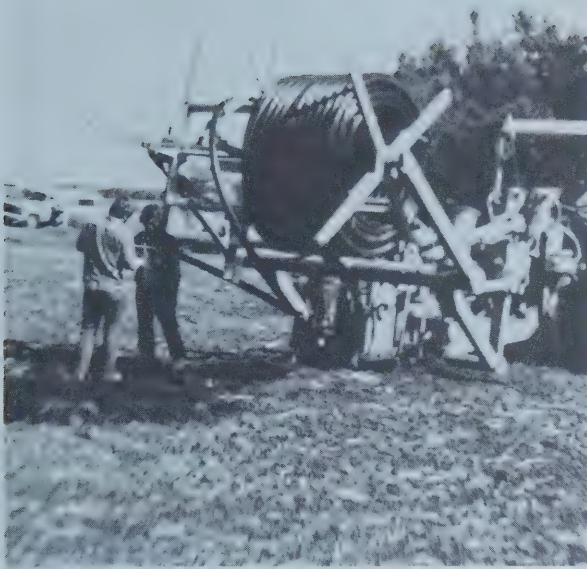
Splicing the pipe (pressure and heat).



Burying the line.



Natural gas line machinery.



Roll of plastic pipe.

for fuel. Here it was a simple matter to adapt. For those with coal furnaces it meant a complete changeover.

What an exciting day when the gas was finally turned on! No more coal to shovel or wood and ashes to carry! And the monthly bills were quite reasonable. At first the price compared favorably with coal; and then there was the convenience besides.

However the honeymoon didn't last. Economic conditions have changed. Now in 1982-monthly bills almost equal the yearly cost of coal in the sixties and early seventies. Oh well! It is the "price we pay for progress!"

Calgary Power Ditch and Dam

Camrose was a growing town experiencing a water shortage. About 1929 Calgary Power purchased the water system and proceeded to supply electric power and water to the town residents.

To obtain water, they hired a contractor to dig a ditch from First Miquelon Lake to the Stoney Creek on Emil Lyseng's land. The cut through the "hills" at the north end was about fifteen to twenty feet deep. Much of the top soil was removed by the local farmers with horses and scrapers. A gas-powered bucket dug the deeper cuts. Men with shovels were employed for the final trimming. South of the "hills", a horse-powered Russel Elevating Grader (smaller, but much like the one at the Museum, but minus the engine) was used where the cut was only a couple of feet deep. There were six horses, with a driver pushing, and a tandem hitch of "six plus six plus four" heavy draft horses ahead. One man handled the me-



Sorry! all the horses don't show. 22 horse-power — 1928 or 1929.



Cat-skinner Norman, Lillian Thronsdon, Ruby Thronsdon, Amy Grue, Edith Thronsdon, Mr. Wilcox 1928 or 1929.

chanical controls while another man, known as a "Cat Skinner", drove the front sixteen horses.

The driver was very skillful and would use a long "black snake", a braided leather whip, to remind the horses that he was in control. He could easily raise a welt on the horses' hides but we never saw him do this. The loud "crack" of the whip was usually all that was needed to convince the horses to move.

One Sunday afternoon, some of the men were playing around, cracking the whip. One man got the tip of it in the eye. The resulting black eye was a grim reminder that the black snake wasn't a toy.

The foreman's son had a "crush" on a pretty waitress in town. He took Richard along for company in his little Model A Ford and went to see her. They ordered the "Camrose Special", ice cream for the exorbitant price of 35¢ each. At that time, that was about half a day's wages!

This particular camp was on John Thronsdon's farm. An interesting point was that the Thronsdon's well supplied all the water needed for their own use, eight horses, thirty cattle, several pigs, as well as the cook house and the twenty-six horses. These were the dry years and several wells in the district were

going dry. We believe this camp later moved to Carl Anderson's farm and continued the work from there.

A small camp was at Lawrence Severson's. A big Irishman and his son were using four horses and a friso, deepening this section of the ditch. His wife was "expecting" and Melvin Severson was on standby, to take her to town when her time came. Things happened too quickly, however, to contact Melvin. Carl Anderson was closer by so they called him in the emergency, and he rushed her to the hospital.

There was a lot of excitement when the water began to flow; a few fish and numerous minnows could be seen. After the level of Miquelon Lake dropped too low, the Conservation Board stopped the flow of the water. The water that did run was of very poor quality; it was however, wet!

In 1955, a dyke and dam were constructed to hold a large reserve of water. Camrose has since developed a new source of water; it pumps it from Dried Meat Lake and stores it in huge concrete tanks. Imperial Oil took over the reservoir in 1966 for a supply of water to pump down the wells, aiding in further oil recovery.

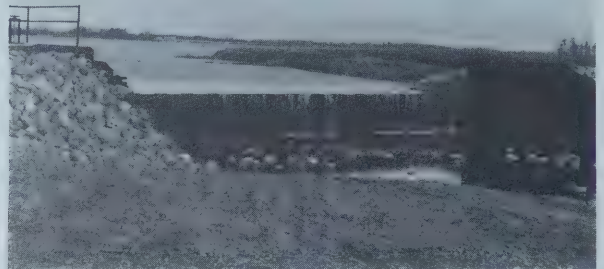


Chester Thronsdon's farmstead — spring of 1974.



May, 1974, Water covering the road and fields between Wilbert Lyseng's gate and west to Lorenz Wenig's corner. The water was over 8 feet deep at centre.

Unfortunate episodes in the history of the ditch and dyke, are the times spring run-off water has backed up and flooded some farms. The first time was in 1956, then again in 1974. Water continued to rise steadily. The pumps used couldn't handle the tremendous volume. A row boat was used to commute between the homes. They rowed right through the alley-way of the barn and tied up at the house door. Wells were flooded. Some fields could not be seeded or cropped that year. The fences were under water and mail boxes just showed above the surface. The effects are still felt to this day.



1981, Lyseng Reservoir.

With today's modern earth moving equipment, this ditch would be small potatoes but, in its time, over fifty years ago, it was a notable accomplishment. We record this accounting for posterity. We were unable to reach anyone in authority for more authentic information.

First Armena Boy Scout Troop by Norman Moe

Pastor S. J. Rude of Scandia Lutheran Church was instrumental in beginning work among the boys of the community in 1944. In 1945, the "Boys Club" was formed, under the direction of Lester Lomnes and Pastor R. O. Olson, and they met regularly on Saturdays at Lester Lomnes' workshop. The boys were instructed in various hobbies and crafts, including taxidermy and woodcraft.

It seemed only natural then, with this type of interest and activity being promoted among the boys of the community, that a Boy Scout Troop should be organized. It was at a regular meeting of the Scandia Lutheran Mens' Club (later to be known as the Armena Brotherhood), held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Lomnes, that the club voted unanimously in favor of sponsoring Boys Scouts in Armena, and proceeded with the appointment of a Group Committee of seven members. Those elected to serve on this first Group Committee were: Ken Knudtson, Evold



Scandia Lutheran Men's Club When They Met To Organize A Boy Scout Troop.

On porch left to right: Sven Jensen, Bert Lomnes, Roger Soderstrom, George Lyseng, Maynard Moe, Marvel Skaret, Martin Lyseng, Lester Lomnes, Reynold Thron-

son, Harold Rolseth, Ivan Lyseng, Marvin Grue, Edwin Grue, Kenneth Lyseng, Richard Skaret, Oliver Grue, Avel Soderstrom, Robert Lyseng.

In front, from left to right: Rev.

R. Olsen, Oscar Grue, Norman Moe, Wayne Lyseng, John Lyseng, Norman Lyseng, Daniel Skaret, Freddie Lyseng, Robert Young, Vernon Lyseng, Kenneth Knudtson.

Organize Boy Scouts At Armēna

The Scandia Lutheran Men's Club, at their regular meeting on Monday evening, decided to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop at Armēna. About 30 men were present when the meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Oscar Grue. The secretary, Svend Jensen, read the minutes of the previous meeting. Pastor Olson opened the meeting with a prayer and short reading from the scriptures. A quartet, consisting of Lester Lomnes, Harold Rolseth, Vernon Lyseng and Pastor Olson, assisted by ~~Mrs. S. Lomnes~~ ~~Lester Lomnes~~, sang one of Melieus Christianson's arrangements.

Mr. Rees Hugh, Manager of the

Royal Bank, Camrose, and Ass't Provincial Commissioner of the Boy Scout organization, spoke on "Scouting". He told the club what it meant to be a Scout; what Scouting did for boys, and the place Scouts took among our citizens. In conclusion, Mr. Hugh explained how to organize a Troop.

After a few questions on procedure, the Club voted unanimously in favor of sponsoring Scouts at Armēna, and proceeded with the appointment of a committee.

It was decided to have five men and two women on the committee: M. Moe, K. Knutson, C. S. Soderstrom, S. Jensen, R. Young, Mrs. S. Lomnes and Mrs. Vernon Lyseng were elected. The committee are to appoint a Scout Master and make all arrangements for the Scout Troop in their district.

Soderstrom, Svend Jensen, Robert Young, Maynard Moe, Miss Sophie Lomnes, and Mrs. Vernon Lyseng. The purpose of this Committee was to appoint a Scoutmaster and Cubmaster, and their assistants, and to make all arrangements for the formation of the Armēna Boy Scout Troop.

Vernon Lyseng consented to be the first Scoutmaster, with his assistant, Robert Young. The first Cubmaster was Ken Knudtson, and his assistant was Marville Skaret. An Investiture Ceremony was held at the Armēna school grounds on the evening of May 16, 1947, when leaders and assistants were installed.

The Assistant Provincial Commissioner, Mr. Rees Hugh from Camrose, officiated at the Investiture, and was assisted by the Scoutmasters from the First Camrose Scout Troop. Scouts present at this ceremony were: Orlando Nisi, Fred Lyseng, Leonard Olson, Wayne Lyseng, Lyle Lyseng, Roger Soderstrom, Norman Moe, Orris Hendrickson, Allen Moore, Harvey Moore, Harland Lyseng and Lorne Broen.

During the summer of 1947, the Scouts and Cubs gained proficiency in the many aspects of scouting by taking various day hikes. The First Armēna Boys



May 16, 1947. Gerald McIlroy, Assistant Scoutmaster, Camrose Troop; Rees Hugh, Commissioner; Vernon Lyseng, being invested; Bill Pratt, Scoutmaster Camrose Troop.

Scout Troop held their first week-long camp in July of 1947 at a site on Miquelon Lake, just down the bank and a short distance west of where the U.F.A. Community Hall now stands. Many activities, relative to the Boy Scout Movement, were engaged in at this first camp. On several occasions, Norman Grue visited the camp and instructed the boys in swimming. Orienteering, woodcraft, tracking, rope work and signalling, were all a part of the instruction received during day hikes. Singing, story-telling and general shinanigans were greatly enjoyed when the troop gathered around an evening camp-fire.

Scouting philosophy was actively engaged in by the First Armena Troop by their "Good Turns". Some of the more memorable 'good turns' of the first year in operation was the general cleaning and raking of the church yard and cemetery. Also, in the last week of October in 1947, the entire Troop of Scouts and Cubs assisted Cubmaster Ken Knudtson prepare for his auction sale, to be held on November 3, 1947.

Oliver Grue was appointed Cubmaster, when Ken Knudtson moved from the community, and he served in this capacity for several years following. Many hikes and camping trips were held under his leadership, and the Cub Pack was instructed in all the skills of the Pack.

In the first week of July in 1947, the Scouts attended a summer Camp at Elk Island Park, together with their Scoutmaster, Vernon Lyseng, and his assistants Robert Young and Denis Lyseng. The boys were able to observe many animals at close range, such as buffalo, elk, moose and beaver. This was probably one of the most memorable and exciting camps that was held. A Scout Troop that was camped nearby at the same time, was from Andrew, Alberta,



Vernon Lyseng, Scoutmaster, ready for a trip.

and many inter-troop competitions and ball games were enjoyed. The Armena Troop possessed the best ball team, but Andrew excelled in other areas. It was at this camp that the Armena Scouts made the Acquaintance of Harry Radomsky, the Andrew Scoutmaster. He was one of the Leaders of the Alberta Contingent to the Jamboree in Ottawa about a week later.

Five Scouts from Armena left on July 12, 1949 for Ottawa to attend the First Boy Scout Jamboree. They were Orris Hendrickson, Wayne Lyseng, Fred Lyseng, Roger Soderstrom, and Norman Moe. Three thousand Scouts gathered from Canada, as well as from Cuba and the U.S.A. Fabian Hugh of Camrose, Patrol leader, and Norman Moe, Assistant Patrol Leader, headed up a Patrol made up of members from the Armena Scouts and five Scouts from Camrose. This Patrol was part of a Troop made up of approximately thirty scouts from rural points in northern Alberta. Scoutmaster for this Troop was T. M. (Beaver) Bennett (affectionately known as "pear shape") from Vegreville. His assistants were Harry Radomsky from Andrew and Father Lessard from McLennan. The boys travelled east to Ottawa by a C.P.R. train from Calgary, which was made up of colonist cars, pulled by a coal-fired locomotive. It



Marville and Daniel Skaret and Norman Moe leaving for over-night hike.

was a rare privilege to attend and take part in the many activities there, but these events would only interest those who attended.

Another five Scouts from Armenia attended the Second National Boy Scouts Jamboree in Ottawa in July of 1953. They were Ordean Olson, Roger Erickson, John Lyseng, David Stollery and John Stollery. They, no doubt, shared in the same excitement and enthusiasm of the Scouts who attended C.J. '49.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is now the site where summer camps were located in 1951 and 1959. Rustic Facilities were constructed and functional campsites were laid out to make these summers highlights for the boys. Many gourmet meals were prepared and enjoyed over the years. One of the most famous and probably the most enjoyed concoctions was a stew prepared by dumping the contents of whatever canned vegetables might be handy, as well as large chunks of baloney or whatever other meat might be on hand, into a large black pot. It didn't matter if the odd errant grasshopper or ant might find its way into this delight. There was never a drop of stew left after the meal. "A little dirt won't hurt" was an oft-repeated saying while cooking this stew.

Vernon Lyseng continued to serve as Scoutmaster and Oliver Grue as Cubmaster until midsummer of 1952, then Norman Moe took over the Leadership as Scoutmaster and Orris Hendrickson became Cubmaster. The Scouts and Cubs continued to be relatively active with various hikes and camping trips until 1956 when the Armenia Troop was discontinued. Edwin Grue was Leader of a Wolf Cub Pack for a brief period after that.

This is a brief history of Scouting in the Armenia Area. It is impossible to recall and name all of the people who were involved and made a noteworthy



#13 Armenia Scout Troop — June 1947, Lorne Broen, Harlan Lyseng, Allan Moore, Harvey Moore, Orris Hendrickson, Norman Moe, Roger Soderstrom, Leonard Olson, Lyle Lyseng, Wayne Lyseng, Fred Lyseng, Orlando Nisi.

contribution to the movement. However, we would like to pay tribute to all who were in some way involved as members of the Group Committee from time to time, those who helped in instruction in some form or other, and to parents and friends for their cooperation, concern and support, which helped make the ten years of Scouting very meaningful and rewarding for all the boys involved.

Memories of Armenia by Rudy Lehmann

I remember the day we moved into the Armenia teacherage with the discouraging discovery that temporarily all five members of the Lehmann family had only one small bedroom to share. That same evening the Armenia "Young People" had a singsong and wiener roast on the school grounds, to which we newcomers were invited. My spirits soared to new heights as I said to myself, "If that's what my senior students are going to be like, then we can't help but get along together wonderfully well." And for the most part we did. If there were occasional difficult times, well, I wasn't always perfect either.

Without exception you've all turned out well. (I won't mention names, that would be unfair to those I have no information of.) But I do know, besides the local successful and very prosperous farmers, there are equally successful bank managers, church officials, social workers, nurses, teachers, businessmen, ministers and wives of ministers, and so on. It makes me feel happy to think that in some small way I helped you along. Best of all, I would like to think that I instilled in some of you at least the feeling of success. You were always co-operative when I gave you opportunities to take part in school contests, and there was nearly always a winner. (One year we had

three!) Some contests were Canada-wide; you were in competition with high school students from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island.

Mary and I often felt that the Armena community was the best one could wish for in which to bring up a family. Being church-oriented, people's lives were sober, hard-working and harmonious. The only place where vandalism could be found was in a dictionary. We remember with pleasure the many church functions and celebrations, Nels Grue's beautiful choir concerts (in which we took part), the National Film Board films at school, the hockey games (and what champions the Armena players were!), and always the friendliness and hospitality of the many people we met and whose friendship we still treasure.

The Hutterian Brethren of Camrose **by Daryl Olson**

For centuries the Hutterian Brethren have laboured to create a social setting exclusively designed to fulfill conditions as set out in various parts of the Bible. The results of this search has been a unique set of human, religious and economic relations as observed in Hutterite colonies. For this they have had to pay dearly, with successive generations having had to endure a life wrought with ridicule, humiliation, harassment by hostile outsiders with persecution and even torture for passively resisting conscription. Numerous times in their history they have had to abandon their colonies and migrate to countries where

they would be granted and guaranteed religious freedom. Through such moves, the Hutterite Brethren left the Ukraine by 1874, settled in Montana and the North and South Dakota region of the U.S.A., and eventually emigrated to Canada where they found a more tolerant attitude. Originally there were three distinct administrative and endogamous (the practice of marrying only within their own tribe) groups of Hutterites — the Dariusleut colonies, the Lehrerleut colonies and the Schniedeleut colonies.

The forefathers of the Camrose Colony were descendants of the Dariusleut colonies and they "branched" from Yorkton, South Dakota to Rockyford, Alberta in 1918. This process of "branching out" as the Hutterite Brethren call it, is made necessary by population growth and requires a delicate management of capital assets, investments, redistribution of colony authority, family, kinship factors and work patterns. By the mid-1940s the stage was set for the Rockyford Colony to branch. Since several years may be required to form a daughter colony following the decision to branch, a parent colony deliberately plans a new daughter colony well in advance. It was probably in such a situation that the colony at Rockyford planned for a new daughter colony at Camrose.

The Rev. Paul R. Hofer (April 22, 1879-August 29, 1955), Mr. Andy S. Wurz (born February 18, 1924) and Mr. John S. Tschetter (Sr.) (January 22, 1906-September 16, 1981) were the original three



Camrose Hutterite Colony.

men sent from Rockyford to find a suitable location for a new daughter colony. They were pursuing a location which in their assessment would have a good supply of water, good soil, a distinct distance from towns but access to roads and to markets. An area north of Camrose was favoured by these three original land buyers. The quarter section of land bought from Mr. John Wensel was the site chosen for the present Camrose Colony. It is no accident that this quarter was chosen as the building site as it has an unlimited availability of fresh water supply provided by artesian wells which feed the large water bodies adjacent to the building site.

In addition, four quarters of land originally owned by Mr. L. E. Loveseth were purchased. When all the land purchases had been made, the new daughter colony contained over a thousand acres. It was from this very humble beginning that the Camrose Colony started.

Some eighty people from the Tschetter, Gross, Hofer, Wurz and Walter families, arrived from Rockyford in 1949. They immediately set about building the Camrose Colony. At the centre of the building site, they erected a kitchen complex and the long houses or living houses with their associated sheds or bath houses. Typically, each long house runs due north and south, and has four apartments, each with a separate entrance. The house of Mr. J. Wensel, the previous owner, still exists in the present building layout and stands out in contrast to the typical long row-type houses customary to the Hutterites. It (the Wensel house) provides extra accommodation for families not housed in the long houses. Other existing buildings on the Wensel farm were adapted to the colony's pattern and function. The newer second house was adapted to serve as the Hutterite Brethren's school house and church.

The large red barn originally built on the Loveseth farm was moved two miles north to the colony building site. It still stands today and remains as the

only remnant of the once proud Loveseth legacy — the most well-known landmark in the community in the early days. It provided the dairy barn up until about 1967, at which time a modern 50-cow barn outfitted with barn cleaners, pipe line milking machines, bulk tank and automatic watering cups was completed. Additional buildings erected, other than those previously existing or moved in, included a smoke house, a butcher shop, a root cellar, three hog barns, grain bins, a repair shop, a shelter for feeder livestock and additional buildings for poultry. Over the years the Camrose Colony has continued to grow both with extensive land holdings and intensive livestock operations.

For many of the same reasons as the Rockyford Colony branched to Camrose, the Camrose Colony branched once in 1961 to Ribstone, Alberta, and again in 1979 to Bruce, Alberta. Some of the original family names (Tschetter, Gross, Hofer, Wurz and Walter) that came to Camrose moved to these daughter colonies. So today there are only the Tschetter, Gross, and Wurz families left in Camrose Colony. Members of these families make up a total population of 60 people.

Over the decades, many people have served in the various official capacities of the Camrose Colony Council. Rev. Elias R. Hofer (April 22, 1912-December 7, 1978) served as the Minister/President from 1950 to 1978. He was the son of Rev. Paul R. Hofer (April 22, 1879-August 29, 1955), who had been the Minister/President earlier at Rockyford. A second son Rev. Paul R. Hofer Jr. (October 18, 1922) served as Minister/President from 1957-1979). In 1979 he continued to serve in this capacity at the new Bruce Colony. The Rev. Paul J. Tschetter, son of John S. Tschetter Sr. has served as Minister/President since 1979. John S. Tschetter Sr. (January 22, 1906-September 16, 1981) was the Boss/Secretary-treasurer from 1949-1981. His son John R. Tschetter Jr. (September 18, 1927) took over that job in 1981.



Original Loveseth barn moved to Hutterite Colony.



Houses on Hutterite Colony.

Before serving in the Camrose Colony Minister/President from 1957-1979, Paul R. Hofer Jr. was the field boss from 1951-1957. Andy S. Wurz (February 18, 1924) continued in this capacity from 1957-1970, and Mike L. Tschetter (June 10, 1941) has held the job of field boss from 1970 to the present.

Since the school was established in 1949, the Camrose Colony has employed a number of teachers appointed outside the colony by the County of Camrose. They include the following:

Mrs. Lavern Nesvold	1949-1950	Mr. Tom Cassidy	1950-1951
Mr. Leroy Bjorgum	1951-1952	Mr. Phillip Beller	1952-1953
Mrs. Edith McNary	1953-1954	Mrs. Florence Lockwood	

	1954-1956		
Mr. Erling Jonson	1956-1957	Mrs. Imogene Olsen	1957-1961
Mrs. Lavern Nesvold	1961-1977	Miss Laurie Sorenson	1977-1979
Miss Cheryl French	1979-1980	Mrs. Cheryl Vandornick	1979-1980

(nee French)

Mr. David Wilson Jan. 1981-present

Koppers International Canada Ltd.

Information obtained by: Elmer Olson

In 1975, the Management of Koppers International Canada Ltd., made the decision to expand their wood preservation services, in order that they might give better service to their prairie customers.

Many factors determine the location of a new treating plant. Rail and road transportation were of prime importance; adequate water supply; a source of manpower for the operation of the plant; close proximity to gas and electric power and above all a central location for the distribution of the treated products. The city of Camrose and surrounding area, having all the above requirements, appeared to be an ideal area in which to build the plant.

In the fall of 1975, the company purchased from Mr. and Mrs. F. Lofgren the part of NW ¼, Section 14, Twps 47, Range 20, W4. This parcel of land contained 67.5 acres of land. Clearing the land, removing the top soil and road building was carried out in the spring of 1976. Construction of the plant



Patrick log loader, spring of 1977, stuck in deep mud, requiring two days to pull it out.

started in the summer of 1976 and was completed in early 1977, with the treating process commencing shortly thereafter.

The production centre is the treating plant which has two complete treating systems. One system contains an autoclave cylinder 80 feet in length and 7'6" in diameter and is capable of treating 1500 cubic feet of wood in a 12 to 16 hour period. Pentachlorophenol Preservative is used in this system only. The principal products treated with Penta are distribution poles for the Utility Companies and foundation piling for industrial construction. The second autoclave is 72' in length with a diameter of 7'6" and the average load is 1000 cubic feet treated in a period of 12 hours. Wolman salts, better known as C.C.A. (chromated copper arsenate), is the preservative used in this system. (Both of these systems are completely automated and rank with the most modern plants in North America.) Wolmanized treated wood is used for residential and commercial building components. Both of the systems operate under 150 pounds pressure at all times. The Penta system is known as the hot system, operating at temperatures up to 210 degrees, while the CCA



Koppers International Canada Ltd. Treated power poles loaded on track ready for shipment.



Pole dressing machine.

is a cold system, operating at atmospheric temperature.

In the peak season there are as many as 25 employees on the payroll. We are not only proud of the plant that we have built but also the contribution we have made to the community. We extend a cordial invitation to all to visit our plant.

The Armena Athletic Association

Back in about 1920, a group of young boys wanted to organize a ball team, and some girls, a basketball team. In order to give them the needed support, the Armena Athletic Association was formed; and still exists today. Under its name, the community has worked together to provide recreation for its members in many and various ways.



1939 Armena Ball team. Back: Frank Olson, Robert Lyseng, Andy Erickson, Frank O'Donnel, Henry (Tiny) Middelsteadt. Front: Evald Soderstrom, Ed Jasman, Stanley Erickson, Jim O'Donnel.

Since records are scanty, it is not possible to mention leaders who have devoted much time and effort, or outstanding teams that have made Armena proud. But many good times have been had in both ball and hockey.

After the school was closed, it became more difficult to maintain teams, but the skating rink is kept up, with Friday night parties being a popular event. At the Winter Carnival this year such sports as cross-country skiing, ice-bowling, and a ball game in the snow were enjoyed, with several new folks out to join in the fun.

In July 1973 the Armena Athletic Association sponsored a Sports Day with a parade, ballgames and other sports to celebrate the installation of new bleachers at the ball diamond.

The retirement party for Reynold and Olive Thronson, who had given long-time service to the



Armena Owls Cupholders, 1935. Back Row, Left to Right: Orvil Pederson, Ed Jasman, Tiny Mittlestadt, Andy Erickson. Centre Row: Herman Erickson, Bob Wylie, Frank Olson. Front Row: Evald Soderstrom, Johnny Kaiser, Art Jasman, Walter Olson.



Trophy for baseball 1935 to 1937, Breezy League. League consisted of: Armena Owls, Dinant West, Sulitjelma, Hay Lakes.

community at Armena General Store, is an example of social events with which the Association involves itself.

In 1980 Armena Day owes its initial success to the good planning of its members, and at that time, the Armena Anniversary Park was officially opened. Ex-



Baseball trophy donated by Nu-Way Store Ltd., Hay Lakes.



Armena Horse-shoe team. James Moore, Andy Erickson, Arvid Erickson, Earle Erickson, Wilbert Lyseng, David Willisko, and Frank Olson.

tensive work was done then to bring facilities up to useful standards.

The ball diamond, with its new back-stop and grounds work, now serves a baseball team in the Powerline League and the Association is happy to sponsor it.

Though it becomes increasingly difficult for our community to maintain its identity with so many of its services closed down, the Armena Athletic Association continues to be active, in order that folks can get together for a good time.



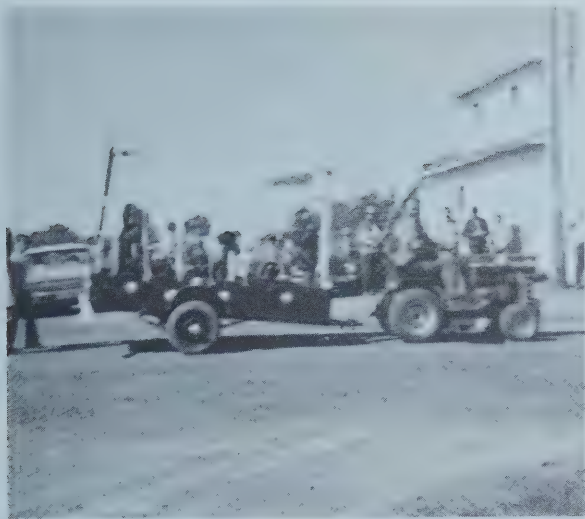
Armena Sports Day, July, 1973 — parade. Raynold's bulk oil delivery truck.



Glen Grue's Surge float.



Don Ostrem's Rumly.



Harold Lovrod with Kiddies in the cage.



Armena Junior baseball team.



Armena Mites, Marville Skaret, Coach. Back Row: Steven Thronsdon, Steven Stollery, Louie Zeller, James Grue. Front Row: Adrian Spruyt, Billy Grahm, David Palm, Jody Quickstad, Wilmer Nordin.

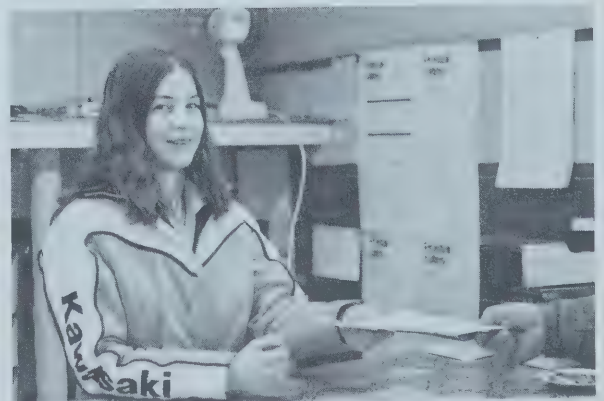
Retirement Party for Raynold

On March 10, 1980, a party was held in the Scandia Church to honor Raynold Thronsdon, proprietor of the Armena General Store and Post Office, on his retirement after twenty-seven years of service to the community.

Gathering of friends and relatives commenced at 6:30 P.M. with everybody enjoying a pot-luck supper. Following the meal a short program was presented including a "roast" in which six roasters referred to the many humorous incidents involving



Raynold and Olive at Retirement Party.



Mrs. Kartz hands out mail at new Post Office in her home at Armena.



Raynold Thronson at the wicket of Armena Post Office.

Raynold. Some of the many children who had frequented Raynold's store during noon hour and after school sang a song about "gum".

Don Green made a presentation of a pendulum clock on behalf of the community.

Armena Day — Alberta 75th Anniversary

The Alberta 75th Anniversary Celebration (Armena Day, as we called it) held on August 16, 1980 began with a parade at ten a.m. The parade route was lined with many past and present Armena and district residents gathered together for this very special occasion.

Leading the parade were the Alberta and Alberta 75th flags followed by Raynold Thronson, acting mayor of Armena, his wife Olive and our County Councillor, Les Coykendall. There were some thirty entrants including floats, old vehicles, decorated bicycles, horses, mules, a horse-drawn buggy, and a homebuilt steam engine, making our parade a great community success.

The food committee arranged for coffee and juice to be served all day starting after the parade.

The noon meal consisted of hot roast beef which was cooked and served by Bill Resch. Salads and pies were donated by the people of the community. It was a very delicious meal. Cake and pie was avail-



The dignitaries.



Stollery float.



Carl Lyseng float. Note four generations. Ivan, Carl, Douglas, Matthew, and Carol in the back.

able for coffee all afternoon. For supper the remaining salads were put out with hot dogs and the roast beef was served cold. There was plenty of food for all who stayed.

The official ceremonies of the Armena Day began later in the day with the arrival of Arnold Malone, Member of Parliament and Gordon Stromberg, MLA for the Camrose Constituency. With all gathered around, the pioneers of Armena and surrounding area were honored and recognized with the



Stollery float.

presentation of 75th Anniversary awards. The awards, in the form of a certificate, recognized each individual by name and were presented to show the appreciation of everyone for the contributions these individuals had made to the Armena area over the past seventy-five years. Each certificate was presented in turn by either Gordon Stromberg or Arnold Malone. Accompanying each presentation, a few comments were made by Mr. Malone or Mr. Stromberg about the recipient of the award. Upon receiving the award, many of these pioneers had a few comments of their own to make. Most of them very humorous and very much enjoyed by all.

The second part of the ceremony was the unveiling of the new sign. Mr. Malone, after a few comments, unveiled the new sign proclaiming that the



Vernon Lyseng entry.

“Armena Anniversary Park” was now officially open for all to enjoy in the years to come. Mr. Malone took this opportunity to present the community with a Canadian flag to be flown at the park.

When folks registered at the beginning of the day, they were each given a color, which signified which group they would be in. Leaders found volunteers from within their color group to participate in such events as Tug-o-war, Wheel Barrow and Three-legged races, Apple Peeling and Freckle contests, and a Relay which involved a runner, a bike-rider, a wheelbarrow pushed with a person riding in it, and a rider on a mule to cross the finish line. Interest ran high in all events. Finally, ball games were played amongst the four color groups, with competition being very keen throughout the day, to come up with the most total points. Cheer leaders added noise and color to the day as they shouted out cheers that boasted of their group's excellence.

Parents of small children were most appreciative of the rides provided for the kids by Chester Thronson with his steam engine, by Edwin Grue with his horse and buggy, and by the Con Winder family with their mules. They were kept very busy and will long



Trail blazer made by Rudolph Klein followed by Winder's service-rig.



Free rides by Chester Thronson.



Bicycle parade.



Armena salutes.



Thordenskjold School by Leonard Olson.



Let's go canoeing! Hi there, Pastor Mike Bergman.



Edwin Grue taking pioneers, Nels and Sophia Grue, for a ride in parade.



Anton Thronson's three generations. Mary, Valerie (in back), Shawn (on cab), Gerald and Wesley (in cab).



Arabs on parade — Winder's entry.



Gas pumps on parade.



Dedication of Park on August 17, 1980. Arnold Malone in foreground.



Lots of food and fun.

be remembered for this special treat. Horse-shoe pits were also kept busy throughout the day.

A grand program ended a very eventful day with Norman Moe doing a masterful job as M.C. Talented members of the community sang and played songs for all to enjoy. A trio of by-gone days, Orrin Lyseng, Ken Rasmussen and Doug Paulson were an added feature of the evening. Mrs. Gertie Lyseng was honored in a special way, when all who had ever sung in Junior Choir, of which she was director for many years, joined in song, once more under her direction. A sing-song rounded out the evening's entertainment.

The main attraction of the evening was the "Fashion Show", a nostalgic look into the past. Clothes worn over the past century were collected, dusted off and presented to an enthusiastic audience. Starting in the 1890's, about the time Armena was first being settled, the first models showed the dress of the time with its long skirts, the prim and proper high collars and lots of buttons. With a background of Gay nineties music, the models brought back many memories for the pioneers of our community. They also set the mood for the rest of the program, as it progressed



Travelling regalia of 1800's.

from decade to decade, showing the fashions as well as the music popular of the times. The garments modelled ranged from the Flapper dress of the Roaring Twenties to the wedding gowns of the 1930's and 1960's. Many memories of world history were brought back with the modelling of the Naval uniform of the war Years (1940's). Many cheers and rounds of applause greeted the appearance of the white sport coat and prom dress modelled to the "Rock and Roll" music of the 1950's. Beatlemania



Free donkey rides.



Beauty contest.



Tug-of-War.



Wheel-barrow races.

and the mini skirt of the 1960's were also presented and then finally today's fashions of the "sensational seventies" up to 1980. The models, all willing volunteers, from Armena and the surrounding area thoroughly enjoyed the experience of modelling all the well-kept garments from the past.

A beautiful warm evening, a large responsive crowd and a great many co-operative workers made our Seventy-fifth Anniversary Day very successful.

The Joarcam Oilfield

by Herman Atema

The year was 1947, Imperial Leduc #1 blew in. Tests proved it to be an extremely good crude oil producer. Reverberations were felt across the land. Not long after this a ripple effect was noticed here.

First there were oil company scouts coming through this area leasing freehold mineral rights. It so happened that the mineral rights except coal was included in C.P.R. land purchased before 1905. (Apparently the C.P.R. only valued the coal to fire their railroad engines before that date). There was much excitement among those that held the rights, but eventually most leased them out for around one dollar per acre per year. As the expression went "It pays the taxes". If oil was eventually found they would receive 12½% of production. Now there were regrets among those who had recently sold their land and allowed the mineral rights to go along in the deal. (Before Leduc no one appeared to value them). But then conversely there was joy among those that had recently acquired land with the rights included.

Another effect of Leduc was the extensive oil



Commonwealth Drilling rig on Imperial Hudson Bay L S D 7, 26-48-21. Just one of the many wells drilled in the Joarcam field in 1952. The average well took only eight days from spudding to rig release. A competitor, a Mowat and Bobb rig, held the record of four and one-half days.

exploration work carried out. Seismograph rigs would be seen working up and down the country roads, with the accompanying adverse effects on some water wells. Farm homes showed the effect of the underground explosions. The Government soon passed laws forcing them to stay a safe distance from farmsteads.

All the while more oil was being discovered in the Edmonton area. It was brought closer to home when Superior Oil & Associates brought in Superior Joseph Lake #1. It was the first producing well from the Viking sands in Alberta. As oil wells go it was shallow, only 3265 feet deep. Initial flow was 500 barrels a day of a sweet light gravity crude. Further drilling proved the field and it was known as Joseph Lake.

This find encouraged further exploration work including this area. So now one would suddenly see an oil rig derrick here, another there lighting up the night sky. One of these was drilled two miles west of Armena, then 4 miles N.E. of Armena an exploratory well was drilled down to around 10000 feet. Incidentally much excitement was caused when this derrick toppled, fortunately no one was injured.



Setting up drilling rig for exploration well at Robert Rasmussen's in August, 1951.



On Sunday, February 8, 1952, about 5 P.M., a terrible crash was heard in the neighborhood. The oil derrick on the Robert Rasmussen place collapsed and fell almost directly north. Spectators came from all around. Luckily no one was hurt as the change of shift was just taking place.

Then Anglo Home & Associates drilled two holes just on the west side of Camrose. All these proved fruitless although the last one showed some indication of oil. Encouraged by this the company located on Legal Sub Division 14-29-47-20, which happened to be exactly halfway between Armena and Camrose. On January 7, 1951 there were indications they had a good well, also from the same Viking sand formation as the Joe Lake field. This well was put on test and it produced 21,000 barrels in a 3 month period. This set off an extensive drilling program in all directions. Then on September 1951 a producer was brought in at L.S.D. 8-27-48-21 by Western Homestead and Associates, which was about half-way between Joe Lake and the Armena Camrose field. It appeared now that with this discovery it was one large field. Drilling forged ahead at a fantastic rate. At times there would be 5 or 6 rigs working within ½ mile radius. By late 1952 the fields were joined and it was named Joarcam after the first syllables of the place names Joseph Lake, Armena, Camrose.

By 1954 some 505 productive wells had been drilled on a forty acre spacing pattern. Drilling and completion costs were averaging \$32,000 per well site at that time. Well head price for the crude oil was fetching \$2.45 a barrel. This was a high grade light crude. Imperial Oil Co. owned about 40% of the Joarcam Viking oil pool, with the remainder distributed between several oil companies. This field proved to be about 25 miles long stretching from Joe Lake to south of Camrose. It was 1 to 2 miles wide. Interestingly this oil field crisscrosses and then at times straddles the Stony Creek throughout its course.

The oil field had quite an impact on the community. It certainly helped to bring about all weather roads a little sooner.

At the beginning of drilling operations some farms were ruthlessly carved up by lease roads. Soon farmers demanded the roads be located so as to interfere as little as possible in the original layout of their fields. All in all there has been reasonably good oil company-farmer relations.

When production started there was need for transportation of the crude to refineries. Edmonton Pipe Lines had the contract to transport the oil, but before the lines were ready there was a backlog of oil so it was trucked to waiting railway tank cars in Armena, and shipped. This operation, as well as the drilling program was carried on 7 days a week which was not well accepted by some in this rather sedate community.

One of the immediate benefits derived from this oil development was the money farmers received for



Laying a flow line in one of Armena's oil fields.

the surface rights. It amounted to about \$1200.00 for each oil well drilling site during the first year and an amount equal to $\frac{1}{3}$ of that as rental the following years. This was quite a windfall for some. Mortgages were paid off, new machinery and cars were purchased. Even some new homes were built.

As most of the freehold mineral rights were leased out before the field was proven there were no individuals that capitalized on mineral right sales to a great degree. There were however, crown lands sold after the field was proven for as high as \$577,000.00 a $\frac{1}{4}$ section.

Another beneficial effect of the oil field on this area was the employment it created for local people. Many farmers continued to farm their land but operated batteries also. Some of the earlier Armena area residents employed full time in the field were Edwin Grue and John Paulson. They served here from 1952 until the field was unitized and were then transferred to other areas.

The field behaved quite well until the early sixties when production in Unit #1 fell. (Unit No. 1 is the section of the Joarcam field extending from the south end to 2 miles north of Armena). This was because of government imposed gas-oil-ratio penalties. This condition is brought on by pressure going down in the reservoir due to production. This was not peculiar to Joarcam Unit No. 1 but was common to many fields in Canada and the United States. It was decided to follow the same procedure as is used in literally thousands of fields around the world, that is to water flood it so as to build up its pressure again and thus recover more oil. This is accomplished by forcing water down strategically located wells. Because of the diverse ownership of leases, no one oil company could undertake a waterflood program by itself. Therefore it was unitized. Thus the whole unit was operated by one company which in this case was Imperial Oil and each lease owner by some formula would get their proportionate share of the revenue.

It was March 1963 when Joarcam Viking Project # 1 was formed. It covered an area of 5,080 acres and involved 127 wells. Injectors and pumps were installed and water acquired from the Lyseng Reservoir.

In an operation of this magnitude there are bound to be problems. In December of 1963 a water shortage developed which caused a shut down for $3\frac{1}{2}$ months. In the spring of the following year the dikes were raised. Since then there has been no shortage of water.

Until 1968 there had been no problems with the injection system, but now after 5 years of operation the welded connections on the injection line were beginning to leak. It was believed the result of faulty welding. Also there was noticed a severe build-up of scale and calcareous matter in the pipes. Examination of this indicated that it was caused by a bacteria. It was discovered that the bacteria came from the injection water, so to counteract this the water had to be chlorinated. There were also other problems of a more technical nature. It apparently all worked out satisfactorily as Unit # 2 (adjoining Unit No. 1 to the north) was waterflooded in 1980-81.

There now has been some experimental work done on a fire flood in unit one, where a fire is started in the oil zone underground and is controlled by the amount of oxygen fed by high volume pumps. This creates extremely high temperatures and gas pressures.

While it is too soon to evaluate what effect it has on production, it is felt more oil can be recovered by this method. With the new technology in oil recovery, it will give the Joarcam field a much longer life than had been previously thought.

Oil Draws Old Timers from Tennessee

H. O. Rodan of Elizabethton, Tennessee, United States is here on a business trip. About forty years ago Mr. Roden was in the hardware business in Camrose operating for seven years before selling out to Ofirim and Maland and Murray and Taylor. He married, while here, a teacher on the Normal school staff whose maiden name was Margaret Logan. They were married in the home of Mrs. Smith and the late Dr. P. F. Smith. While here he bought a quarter section of land which now is in demand by several oil companies as a likely producing site. It is the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -3-48-20-W4 in the North Armena field. Mr. Roden was beset by telephone calls in the recent weeks from oil companies in Edmonton so he came up to check things over. His offers are quite intriguing.

— Courtesy of Camrose Canadian,
January 16, 1952

A MAJOR OIL FIELD *May 1953*

The Camrose-Armena section of Alberta's oil development is a major oil field in itself. Official statistics indicate that Camrose-Armena alone is producing two thousand barrels of oil more each day than Turner Valley. There is another factor that the statistics do not show, and that is the premium quality of the oil from Camrose-Armena. This oil commands a premium of fifty cents per barrel over most crudes produced in Alberta. Active drilling has been pretty much at a standstill here for several weeks. Much of the acreage is already drilled out, though two new rigs have been brought in recently. Further tests are to be made in the Bawlf area and some of the acreage south and east of town is to be drilled into.

Keen Oil Interest — January 14, 1952

Oil interest is still keen in the district. The derrick on Emil Hansen's land seems particularly imposing. The latest well on Algar Lyseng's land is now producing and the question seems to be, where next?

There are about eighteen producing wells in the Armena field now. There are also about five drilling outfits busy drilling at the present time. Armena is quite a busy place at this time as trucks are busy filling tank cars right in Armena.

The Armena Social Credit Group by Herman Atema

As history has recorded, the Social Credit movement in Alberta had its beginning during the great depression of the nineteen thirties. It was a reactionary movement brought on by the privations of that day. It was based on a monetary theory advanced by Major Douglas, an Englishman, but it never really got beyond that stage. In brief, it was a plan to balance the amount of money in circulation with the production of the country.

William Aberhardt was the Alberta founder of the movement. He was an eloquent speaker and dispensed a mixture of religion and politics. He seemed to have what they call today — charisma, either he was loved or hated. One of the expressions he seemed to enjoy to use on opposers was "if they haven't suffered enough it's their god given right to suffer some more". Also he used to mention "the fifty bigshots" down east in not exactly flattering terms.

Early in the thirties he organized what were called study groups all through the province. Their purpose was to educate the people in the doctrines of Social Credit and organize them into an effective political force. It certainly worked because in the election of August 1935 he formed the government which held power for the next 35 years.

Not long after this a Social Credit group was formed at Armena. It was at first nurtured by a much earlier established group, the Busk Social Credit group. The Armena group never had a large membership probably due in part to mild ridicule heaped upon the organization as a whole. One unflattering term used was "funny money people". The Social Credit group meetings developed partially into social gatherings, but was also a communication vehicle between the grassroots and government. This group gathered once a month at local homes and on special occasions in the school house. There usually was a picnic each summer at a nearby resort lake. A highlight of this group's activities was a large picnic held in Armena during the summer of 1938 involving also the two groups to the south. Premier Aberhardt and his right hand man Ernest Manning, attended and spoke to an audience of over 1000 people. This event made the front page of the Edmonton Journal mainly because among other things it was also used as a vehicle to introduce a prominent eastern politician, who was going to do big things in the federal field.

Now the second world war came and ironically the depression of the thirties became an unhappy memory, mainly because of money being pumped into the economy through huge war expenditures. It now appeared to vindicate the Social Credit theory that one of the causes of the depression was a shortage of purchasing power. The Social Credit Government did try to gain control of the money system but their legislation was usually declared ultra vires and disallowed by the Feds., or it was thrown out by the courts. The Government then instituted the Treasury Branches (nicknamed by some "tin Banks") in the hope of implementing its monetary scheme. This turned out to be just another banking institution. William Aberhardt died in 1943 and Ernest Manning became premier. It gradually turned into a non-controversial right of centre government. All the while the Armena Social Credit group continued to function but as the war induced prosperity returned, people became more and more unconcerned with reform. It was during the last half of the forties that the local group disbanded.

Today the movement seems to be in its death throes, never having attained its goals, while the economy is in a recession suffering again from a money imbalance.

These conditions appear to be bringing on another reactionary force which holds up the spectre of separation.

Armena W.C.T.U.

The Armena Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized by a group of Bardo Ladies in

September, 1943. Mrs. George (Magda) Hendrickson was the president at the time. The Ladies came and presented a program and explained the aims and objectives of W.C.T.U. work. At the end of the program a Union was formed consisting of the 25 or 30 Armena women who were present. The first slate of officers was:

President — Mrs. Arthur (Bertina) Skaret

Vice Pres. — Mrs. Martin (Margaret) Hendrickson

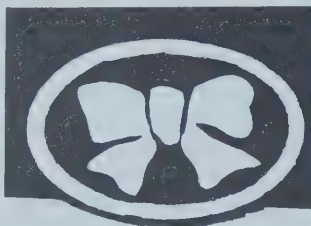
Secretary — Mrs. ?

Treasurer — Mrs. Robert (Dorothy) Lyseng

The Badge

The badge was, and is a bow of white ribbon, symbolizing purity. The Motto: For God and Home

White Ribbon Bow,
W.C.T.U. Badge.



and every Land. The main objective was to promote moderation in all things good, and *Total Abstinence* from all things harmful. Our aim was to reach all people, especially youth and children, through various programs carried out in the schools. Each year we would have a poster contest in schools nearby and winners would be sent on to compete with other groups. Medal Contests (speech and music) were also held yearly with winners receiving bronze, silver or gold medals.



Provincial Convention at Scandia Church, 1961. Front, Left to Right: Mrs. Grace Knight, Mrs. Reno Short, Mrs. Alma Nelson the Provincial President, Mrs. Watson the National President, and Mrs. Olafson the Local President.

The Local Union was affiliated with other unions in the Edmonton area, called the Edmonton District, and a convention was held each year. The various Districts (there were three) were in turn affiliated with the Alberta Provincial W.C.T.U. meeting in Convention yearly, and Provinces across Canada belonged to the Canadian W.C.T.U. meeting in Convention every second year. The World W.C.T.U. (W.W.C.T.U.) meets every third year in one of the countries in which there are unions, to transact business, get new ideas for the work and to encourage one another in the promotion of our work.



Leaving for Convention in Totfield, 1963. Left to Right: Mrs. Martha Hendrickson, Mrs. Margaret Moore (President). Mrs. Dagny Lyseng, Mrs. Dorothy Lyseng, Mrs. Clarice Olafson, Mrs. Margaret Hendrickson.

We were kept informed of various developments across Canada by our own "White Ribbon Tidings" magazine which comes to each member, and in world events by a small "White Ribbon Bulletin", published four times a year. The Armena Union Disbanded about 1965.

The Fire in Armena — 1980

On the afternoon of March 18, 1980 (Maundy Thursday) a grass fire started southwest of the town of Armena. With a brisk wind to fan it, it soon cleaned up the tall dry grass and headed straight for Jarmac lumber, Ken Bowman's place and the church. Camrose and Hay Lakes fire departments were summoned and neighbors gathered with men and equipment. The ground was still soft so one of the fire trucks got stuck but with the help of Don Green's tractor they got it out.

Jarmac Lumber was saved but a holiday trailer on Bowman's place belonging to Don Ostrem was totally destroyed as was a barn and a little shed. Luckily

the fire was stopped just as it burned the spruce trees right beside the church, leaving the church unharmed.



Neighbors involved.



Fire truck stuck.



So near residences.



So near to Jarmac Lumber Yard.



Trailer burned.



Barn on fire.

Politics

George P. Smith

written by a niece — Dorothy Lyseng

George Peter Smith was born on August 27, 1873 at Lieury, Ontario, the eleventh child of a family of twelve. His education was obtained at Lieury, high school at Strathroy and Normal School at Toronto. He won several medals along the way. His last teach-

ing appointment was at Ryerson School in Toronto, after which he became a representative of the Confederation Life Association, and moved west to the N.W.T. (later Alberta) in 1901.

George Smith's year in the Life Insurance business was successful and he won an award (\$5000) for sales, which enabled him to purchase the store and furtrading business at Duhamel. His associate in this venture was a long-time friend Murray Miller. This venture proved very successful also and in 1902 he persuaded his mother, Hannah Smith, his twin sisters Agnes and Margaret Deverell and his younger brother Norman to join him, and assist in the business.

In 1905 when the C.P.R. built a branch line east from Wetaskiwin and the village of Sparling had been formed, George and Norman sold the Duhamel store and went into partnership with R. (Bud) Price in Sparling, renamed Camrose later. In 1906 they built their own store, and both married, Norman in July and George in October. George's wife Jean Gunn of Toronto, gave birth to a son Hector in July of 1907 but unfortunately Jean died in childbirth, and Christine Smith left her post as matron of the Dawson City Hospital, Yukon, to come and look after her brother and his small son.

In the fall of 1907 George sold all his business interests in Camrose, including his home, known later as the C. J. Duggan house. He and Christine then spent a year touring Europe. During that year he spent several months working for the Canadian Immigration Department, on a speaking tour in England and Scotland.

Returning to Camrose in the fall of 1908, George took over the newspaper, "The Daily Mail" from Captain T. Berville Thomas, and changed the name

to "The Camrose Canadian". This venture also proved successful, and George retained the ownership until selling to Fred King.

In April 1909 George P. Smith took part in a general election and was elected to the Provincial Legislature to represent the Liberals in the Camrose Constituency, which he did until 1921, holding the positions successively, as Deputy Speaker, Provincial Secretary, Minister of Health and Minister of Education. These were busy years organizing Public Health services, building roads and railroads, encouraging immigration and the beginnings of school centralization, and as Managing Director of Round Hill Collieries Limited, besides!

Of his record during 1914-1918 George Smith wrote (in his memoirs): "I found myself continually engaged in war work. I addressed hundreds of recruiting meetings and was responsible for organizing the Patriotic Fund work . . . From Ottawa came this tribute, "George P. Smith, M.L.A. for Camrose, amply justified his position in this scheme by raising in the Camrose Constituency the largest amount each year of any Constituency in Alberta, twice more than doubling the quota asked by the provincial executive. The district is more than 60% foreign born."

In a letter to his niece, Dorothy Lyseng, some years later, George wrote of the Armena polling division, "In my first election in 1909 I got every vote in that district — exactly 100%. I got every Lyseng vote and every Hendrickson vote and I tried my best in the following years to be deserving of that wonderful support."

George had remarried in 1914 and sister Christine went back to her nursing at Canora, Saskatchewan. George married Greta Moffat of Port Elgin, Ontario, and they had two children Roddick and Margaret. After being defeated by the United Farmers of Alberta, in 1921 George returned to Ontario and entered business there in Dundas. Both George and Greta died there and are buried in Dundas.

The Armena Willing Workers

In 1932, a group of women, including Mrs. Wylie, Mrs. W. J. Moore, Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, Mrs. E. S. Soderstrom as President, and Mrs. Glenn Moore as Secretary-Treasurer, formed the Busk Sewing Circle to raise campaign funds for the new Social Credit party. They raised money by having a chicken supper and a sale of handicrafts, including quilts, cushions and some novelties that were made by the Busk School children.

In 1939, at the outbreak of World War II, this organization became a branch of the Canadian Red Cross. Many new members joined now as it became a community effort. Lots of knitting and sewing was



George P. Smith M.P., his wife Greta and son Roddick, and daughter, Margaret Siddons, 1934.

done and many quilts were made. They regularly sent parcels of food and clothing to the local soldier-boys.

They carried on until 1945, when the war ended, then the name was changed to Armena Willing Workers. This group continued to get supplies through the Red Cross Work Room in Camrose but when it closed, they were obtained directly from Calgary.

Another section of the Willing Worker's service was to organize the Canvas for the Canadian Red Cross, which was done by Minnie Soderstrom for many years and later by Elizabeth Smithson. They also organized the Cancer Canvas each year and this is carried out by their own members. Through the years they have contributed to many charitable organizations such as: Crippled Children, Handicap Camps as He-Ho-Ha, A. C. T. Telerama, C.N.I.B., the Salvation Army, Bethany Home for Children, 4-H Trophy to the Armena 4-H Club, Centra-Cam, and other community projects. They used to go to Bethany Home for Children to help out whenever they needed extra help.

There have been various fund raising projects. There was a "Fashion Show of Wedding Gowns Through the Ages", "Variety Programs", "Search for Talent Shows", "Band Concerts by the Hay Lakes Band", and "Quilt Raffles". They have catered to weddings and served lunch at auction sales.

They now make quilts and other craft items that are sent to Calgary where they are sold at the Red Cross House or at special Quilt Auctions, such as those held at Banff. It is more convenient for Red Cross to have the money to use for special aid in other countries. This past year, Armena Willing Workers received a special award in recognition for their assistance in supplying saleable articles.

There have been many faithful "Willing Workers" in this group through the years for which they have been very grateful. Now they are only a small group, so that each member is either on the executive or on a committee.

They don't work all the time; they have fun too. They have good times at the quilting parties. Many former members often help at those so it turns out to be a good day for visiting as well. They usually have an end of the year get-together such as a picnic or a supper party.

Nostalgia

by Judith Thronson

"It's time to get up!" A voice rings in my ears
But oh! it's so cold and so dark up here
The frost on the quilts surround my face
What I can see of the window, it's painted like
lace.

I'll grab up my clothes and run downstairs
Boy, I'm glad I slept in my underwear
I'll dress by the range
What a pleasant change
But I must switch sides
For my tummy I scorch
While my bummy I freeze
I must get dressed for to school I must go
Into my heather wool stockings I squeeze every toe
Now wrap my drawers so no bumps will show
Into my navy fleece bloomers I jump with a
bounce
Next my grey flannel petticoat — no it hasn't a
flounce!
On goes my dress and sweater too
Lastly my well-worn black felt shoes.
There's one more job that has to be done
If Pa has shovelled the path, I'll make it on run
But Boy! is it ever cold out here
Minus 60° F wind chill down there
The Eaton's Catalogue is cold and stiff
I'll just hurry and get out of this old, cold biff.

Off to school we merrily go
Even tho' it is thirty below
The horses in the school barn we will tie
Then in our classroom we must try
To get some knowledge from our books
Or we'll surely become bums or crooks

"Twenty froggies went to school
Down beside a rushy pool
Twenty little coats of green
Twenty vests all white and clean
We must be in time said they
First we study then we play.
That is how we keep the rule
When we froggies go to school.
Twenty froggies grew up fast
Bull-frogs they became at last
Not one dunce was in the lot
Not one lesson they forgot
Polished in a high degree
As each froggy ought to be
Now they sit on other logs
teaching other little frogs."

Barefoot we play in the puddles and streams
But best of all are my fantastic dreams
Of shedding my woollies and flannelettes too
And step into flour-sack undies bleached like new
A thirty-cent print dress I will sport
But now is the time Pa holds the fort
His famous spring tonic for lads and lasses
That horrible dose of sulphur and molasses.

A playhouse we'll make out in the trees
Some extra branches to keep out the breeze

An apple box for a cupboard will do
 Blocks are just fine for a chair for you
 Another box for table on which to place
 Mud cakes I've made with feminine grace.
 Harvest and threshing the days we enjoy
 But it's hard work for each little girl and boy
 Help with the chores, wood and lunches too
 But it's sure fun when we're all through.
 We take out the mattress so dusty and flat
 Dump out the straw, bed-bugs and bats
 Ma washes the ticking, it looks like new
 Then stuffed with fresh straw up the stairs it we'll
 screw.

The Reverend is coming for dinner tomorrow
 The big rooster is killed to the hens' great sorrow
 The linen is ironed with utmost care
 The crystal and silver is polished with flare.
 And the Kids must be scrubbed from head to toe
 So into the wash tub we all must go
 By the time we're all done
 Up to bed we must run
 And mother is left to scrub the floor
 And dust everything from door to door
 "The Reverend is coming you kids beware
 Don't say a word and don't move off your chair!"
 Christmas is coming I sure can tell
 From the hustle and bustle and fragrant smell
 There's lutefisk, lefsa, and flatbread to bake
 We can only afford a molasses cake.
 The poplar tree we'll trim with care
 With strings of popcorn; rose-hips and what-'er
 Home-made candles our tree will hold
 And a bright star a top, cut from paper of gold.
 Presents a plenty will be by the tree
 Mama has knit mitts and scarves for us three
 The boys will get sox and mittens, Papa too
 But Mama, what can we get for her?
 A wooden spoon for her dough to stir!
 Carols we'll sing and an orange for a treat
 Then off to bed on a Merry Christmas beat!

Alberta

by Mary (Hendrickson) Rustand

In 1901 I came up here,
 As others did, from far and near.
 The Territories welcomed us,
 Without ado or a big fuss.
 My Dad a homestead did obtain,
 And knew of hardships, loss and gain.
 Our hopes were high, so thus we stayed,
 Found climate good, we progress made.
 Oh, I remember 1905,
 This country seemed to come alive.

Sir Laurier at man's behest,
 Did change the rule for land out west.
 This part a Province then became,
 Alberta was the given name.
 A bit of rivalry arose,
 Where should the Parliament repose?
 Then Ottawa chose Edmonton.
 New history here had just begun.
 A Parliament, O yes, brand new,
 With Rutherford to guide us too.
 Oh we were proud to be a part
 Of this new land, it cheered our heart.
 With law and order, progress came,
 Down through the years had gained much fame.
 The Pioneers great challenge met,
 Found faith and hope, with few regrets.
 Their brains and brawn made use of time,
 As we look back, their records shine.
 The Forts to cities now have grown,
 We're housed in different kinds of homes.
 Schools and churches dot the land,
 Timber, minerals, coal to mine,
 The gas and oil help coffers shine.
 The agriculture thrives out west,
 And cattle herds among the best.
 Our hams and bacon without peer,
 Enjoyed by all both youth and Seer.
 The poultry too has found a place,
 Give sumptuous meals our tables grace.
 Our lakes and streams with fish galore,
 And sometimes wildlife at our door.
 The hunters seek their quota meet,
 Add to their trophies week by week.
 Men and women of renown,
 Grace our hamlets, cities, towns.
 Our athletes encouraged are,
 Seek competition near and far.
 Clinics, Hospitals have we,
 Colleges, Universities,
 Factories and Science Centers,
 Encourage folk to seek and enter.
 For scenery we have the best,
 Happy tourists, welcome guests.
 With trains and airplanes galore,
 We move with ease from shore to shore.
 Great highways now replace the trails,
 Most places served with daily mails.
 Our people are from many nations,
 Who live and serve with animation.
 May God give wisdom, fortitude,
 That stewardship, may always prove,
 Integrity with honor hold,
 That faith in God gives wealth untold.
 O blest am I to have my home,
 In land where Buffalo used to roam.

Churches

Scandia Lutheran Church

Historical Background:

The settlement that later became known as Armena, Alberta, was started upon the arrival of the T. S. Grue, S. T. Grue, and the Ole Movald families on May 17, 1894. Few settlers arrived from that time on until after 1900. Those arriving were mainly from the north central States: Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa and Wisconsin, having immigrated there previously from Norway.

Wetaskiwin was the nearest town at the time, about thirty-five miles away.

Reasons for locating in the district were several, such as enough unsettled land to form a colony, making it possible to start a church and a school. With the privileges offered the pioneers came also the responsibilities and hardships. Foremost in their minds was to gather for Christian worship. Not having a pastor in their midst, an invitation was sent to Rev. Bersvend Anderson at Bardo, Alberta, (settlers



Confirmation in Scandia. Gerhard Ostrem, Kristine Feragen, Sophia Rasmussen, Nora Hanson, Gina Moe, Myrtle Olson, Alvin Thompson, Lawrence Severson, George Lyseng, Rev. T. T. Carlson, William Skaret, Martin Lyseng.

in Bardo also arrived in 1894) to come to what is now Armena to conduct services. This he did faithfully for several years. Much could be said about the work carried out by Rev. Anderson. In spite of his advanced age, he travelled long distances to visit new settlers with the Gospel.

The first Lutheran service was held in the home of Thore Grue on March 3, 1895, and continued to be held in homes for a period of about four years. The first Baptismal service and wedding took place on April 9, 1896, at the home of E. Froen. The first confirmation service recorded was held at the O. Movald home on November 8, 1896. Those confirmed were Tommy Movold and Elise Christenson. The first Communion service was held at the home of Thore Grue on January 8, 1897. The choir and Sunday School had already been started and will be dealt with under separate headings.

The Thordenskjold school was built in the spring of 1898 and served as school, church, and for community gatherings for several years. On May 14, 1898, the congregation was named Scandia, which was also adopted three and a half years later when it was organized. The services were held at the school up until the time that the church was built.

Scandia Lutheran Congregation Organized:

The Scandia congregation was organized at the Thordenskjold school on October 26, 1901. Charter members were: Thore Grue and family, John Moe and family, Ole Movald and family, G. O. Hendrick-



Reverend Nels Carlson at Scandia.

son and family, H. B. Lomnes and family, Jacob Lunde and family, John Broen and family, C. Kelstad and family, and Martin Steen.

G. O. Hendrickson was elected president and Martin Steen as secretary. A committee was named to draw up a constitution for the congregation. Pastor Anderson was to advise the committee.

The Church is built:

In April, 1903, a church site was chosen on section 2.4.21 w. of 4th beside the already established cemetery, being about three quarters of a mile west of Armena. On June 21, 1904, the building of the church was started and completed in 1905. In 1908 it was moved to a site about three quarters of a mile north of Armena, to the S.W. quarter section 13.48.21 w. of 4th, this being more central to the members of the congregation. A cemetery was also started by the congregation. In 1909 the church was lengthened ten feet and a steeple was added. In 1927 a basement was added.

Fire Destroys The Church:

On April 30, 1955, the church was destroyed by fire. The new pews, piano and organ were saved.



Cleaning crew, Scandia Church, 1909. Back Row: Mrs. Bert Lomnes, Tilda Lyseng, Mrs. K. K. Lyseng. Front: Mary Skaret, Avey Skaret (behind) Mina and Nellie Lyseng.



Scandia Church on fire, 1955.

The new church was built the same year in Armena, across the street from the new parish parsonage. The parish then consisted of the congregations of Scandia, St. Joseph, and Bethlehem. The former parsonage was sold and a new one built in 1954. The new church and parsonage were heated by coal furnace and stoker and later the parsonage with propane furnace until 1976 when the church and parsonage were changed over to natural gas heat.



The new Scandia Church.

Celebrations:

The fiftieth anniversary of the congregation was celebrated Sunday, May 25, 1952. The sixtieth anniversary was celebrated on November 10-12, 1961. At this time the new Baldwin organ was officially installed and dedicated by Pastor H. Holte. The seventy-fifth anniversary was celebrated June 25-27, 1976, with thankful hearts and honouring the memory of our pioneer forefathers whose faith, prayers, concern, and sacrifices laid the foundation for our congregation. As we look back, let us do so in humble adoration to Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith. And let us ask Him for His guidance and blessings upon the Scandia congregation for years ahead.

The Armena parish was formed on May 24, 1937. Pastors serving the congregation before that time also served several other congregations including Camrose. The Norwegian language was used almost exclusively up to this time.

Pastors Serving The Congregation:

As has already been mentioned, Pastor B. Anderson served as pastor in our community from March 3, 1895, until shortly after the congregation was organized in 1901.

Bersvend Anderson — 1901

A. E. Hanson — Nov. 12, 1901-Oct. 23, 1904

Pastor Frojen — June 1, 1905-July 28, 1906

T. T. Carlson — 1911-1915

O. Ellingson — March, 1916-Aug. 18, 1923

T. J. Oppedahl — Spring of 1925-Sept., 1928

N. Carlson — 1929-July 18, 1937

A. H. Solheim — in absence of regular pastor, 1937-38

S. J. Rude — Dec., 1939-July, 1945

R. O. Olson — Oct. 1, 1945-May, 1951

H. J. Rostad — June 24, 1951-March, 1956

H. Neufeld — in the absence of regular pastor

R. Nostbakken — July 1, 1956-1957

H. Holte — Jan 1, 1958-Sept. 15, 1963

H. Frostad — July 15, 1965-June 28, 1967

O. D. Pedersen — Dec. 3, 1967-Aug. 31, 1969

H. Lovrod — Sept. 3, 1969-Aug. 4, 1974

O. D. Pedersen — Jan. 5, 1975-Apr. 4, 1979

Michael Bergman — Sept., 1979-

Throughout the years the prayer meeting with Bible Study has been a source of strength and inspiration. During this time of fellowship, many are the petitions that are brought before our Heavenly Father for the salvation of souls, the welfare of our congregation, our community, the church at home and abroad. We pray too as the psalmist, "Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee." — Psalm 143:8. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." — Ephesians 5:20.

Grant that we as a congregation and individuals will never lose sight of the importance of prayer.

Scandia Sunday School, Luther League and Ladies Aid

by John Walker

Quote — "The main activities of the community centered around Scandia Lutheran Church from the year 1908. At the time I moved up to Carl Lysengs to work everything to do with the church was in Norwegian. Under these conditions it was not long before I could speak Norwegian fluently. It was about this time that the congregation was discussing the advisability of introducing some English as the children were going to school in English and using the same language while playing together and it was right to teach them in Norwegian in Sunday School. It was decided to do this and I was asked to take the first English class. I agreed and after some time I became superintendent for the Sunday School for all of twenty five years. The Sunday School was very successful according to pictures I have. We averaged from fifty to seventy-five children every Sunday. I remember especially one year we figured out we had every child coming within a radius of three miles of the church. We had no trouble getting teachers as the young people of all the families around always volunteered. It does me good to see so many of our



Scandia Sunday School picnic at Miquelon Lake.

students now married with children and grandchildren having Christian homes and continuing in the church work.

The congregation was fortunate in that most members, young and old were musical and singers. As long as I can remember there was an adult choir. The leaders I remember were Thore Grue, Bert Lomnes and Nels Grue. There was also a fair sized junior choir led by Palma and Sophie Lomnes.

Before my time there was a Luther League which they called the Northern Lights Society. The members consisted of those confirmed and all young people. The program consisted of readings, musical numbers and short talks. These were given once a month and usually to a full church. I believe it was around 1914 that the young people got the idea of forming a league of all the other Lutheran Congregations round about. If my memory is right one of the first meetings was held at the home of Rasussen's where they decided to form a league to be called Luther League of Central Alberta. It would include local leaguers as far west as Wetaskiwin to Cereal, to Viking and Edmonton. This league became very successful. Local leaguers visited each other with

exchange programs. Once a year a three day convention was arranged for and locals would send invitations to hold some in their congregations. A speaker would be chosen and invited and all locals to send delegates. All delegated and visitors were fed and housed by the host congregation. Many had to sleep on the floor and enjoyed it. As a project to work towards it was decided to support a missionary in China. As Nelius Ronning was a student at University of Alberta and planning to go to China, we offered to pay his support. To our great sorrow Nelius drowned in Slave Lake while doing some project for the University. Palmer Anderson a very close friend of Mr. Ronning offered to go in his place, and was accepted.



Left to Right, Back: Mrs. K. K. Lyseng, Mrs. Carl, Mrs. George, Mrs. Edward Lyseng, Mrs. Ed Hendrickson, Mabel Walker, and Mrs. Bert Lomnes. Front: Mrs. Hong, Mrs. Henry and Mrs. G. O. Hendrickson.

After Julius Hansen (later Rev.) I became treasurer and on taking over the books found them rather hard to balance as people who had no cash pledged one horse, one acre of grain, a calf etc. This was kind of amusing but it was the only way they could contribute.

After some years the International Luther League was formed in the United States. We joined them but we still continued to visit local Leagues and have our conventions. On account of the hard winters we appreciated the invitations Camrose gave us. I remember one year that it was so cold that Alof Anderson of Bardo volunteered to stay at the church overnight to keep the fire going so it would be warm enough for us to carry on the next day. I was privileged to be elected as president for several years. At all these conventions whether held summer or winter the churches were always filled to overflowing; chairs in the aisles and in every corner. I remember one day while having my hair cut at Lang's Barber



Scandia Church Choir. Nels Grue director.



Life Members Scandia W. M. F., 1942. Left to Right: Mrs. Henry Hendrickson (Mathea), Mrs. Kelsted, Mrs. Knut Lyseng (Anne), Mrs. Ole Skaret (Kristine), Mrs. Thore Grue (Beret), Mrs. Cornelius Grue (Berthea).



A group of Scandia ladies at a spinning, carding, and knitting bee Ivora Davidson in front row (head lowered), Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hendrickson, Mrs. B. Lomnes, Mrs. Ole Olson, Mrs. Edward Lyseng, Mr. and Mrs. E. Severson, Mrs. Carl Lyseng, Mrs. Ole Skaret, Gertie Lyseng, Inga Pederson, Mrs. Moe.

Shop in Camrose he asked how come that when Lutherans put on a special meeting or convention we draw such crowds which did not happen at other churches.

I have a letter from Dr. Ylvesaker who was executive secretary of the Young Peoples Luther League dated April 2, 1936 Minniapolis in which he thanks us for the high type of service our youth was rendering.

Our congregations also arranged for weekend evangelistic meetings when neighboring Pastors and laymen would have charge.

Another important organization was the Ladies Aid, which meant much to the life of the Church. They met regularly and besides the usual lunch and sometimes dinner they had devotion and sewed all kinds of useful articles which they auctioned off at their annual picnic held at the church. They served dinner to all and had a stand with real homemade icecream, candy bars etc. It so happened I was auctioneer on three occasions."



Sunday School at Scandia, 1942.



Christmas 1950, Scandia Sunday School.



Galloping teas to raise money for W. M. F. Left to Right: Bertina, Dagny, Mary, Olga, Pearl, Mar, Thelma. Children: Tom and Bill Stollery, Dale and Karen Grue.



Scandia Ladies' Aid at Klemmet Lysengs.



Scandia L. C. W. had their Centennial program.

Scandia Sunday School by Edwin Grue, 1951-1965

I will try to take up where John Walker left off and try to tell a bit more about Sunday School.

After John Walker, Bertina Skaret was superintendant for several years until 1951 when I became superintendent.

During these years we continued to have a large Sunday School of 60-75 students with nine grades and we were fortunate in always having a good teaching staff.

We continued to contribute to different missions through the years.

We tried to involve all the teachers and the older students in having a devotional at each Sunday School service.

We also tried to promote different classes taking part in the worship service.

Our Christmas programs were always the highlight of the year and also involved some of the young people from Luther League.

We also tried to reach out to all the children in the community, whether their parents were members of the congregation or not and were very fortunate in having a good response.

I continued as superintendent until 1965 when we moved to Stettler. At that time Gerd Lyseng took over and since several others.

The Scandia Sunday School is still a very important part of the congregation. I too am very thankful when I look back over the years and see how today many of these young people have established good Christian homes and many are members in different congregations throughout western Canada.

Rev. Raymond Olson These things I remember:

I have been toying with the possibility of doing

some writing. Esther and I with our family have had, and continue to have, some blessed times together and with the many folks that it has been our privilege to serve. We thank God for the growing fellowship which more and more is consummating into what we confess: "I Believe in the Communion of Saints, the Fellowship of all Believers." For some this has already taken place . . . and as Paul says in Ephesians 3:14-15 "The family of God in Heaven and on Earth." What a wonderful prospect we have by faith! Upon receiving the call to serve the three point parish: Armena, St. Joseph, and Bethlehem, I laughed as I laid the letter of call on my desk . . . and said to Esther: "I wonder what my mother would say, being that Scandia during the earlier years of my life . . . was Scandia . . . our home congregation." The letter laid there for a number of days . . . but each day it became clearer and clearer and clearer that if we were to obey God, then we would have to accept the call. This was the beginning of six of the most happy years . . . yes, I believe fruitful years we spent in the ministry.

We came to the parsonage which served the congregation for many years . . . dirt floor in the basement . . . furnace stood on a partial cement block . . . coal and wood furnace . . . water seeping in was a weekly occurrence . . . had to bail and carry out.

The house was built of dimensional material . . . plaster board with paper downstairs, and with two-by-fours and corrugated paper on the walls upstairs . . . with its two rooms. The church Council drilled a well and we had ample water for household use, as well as flooding the back yard each winter for ice to skate and play hockey on. The exuberance building was on the back part of the lot . . . with plenty of newspapers, and Eaton's catalogues. "There was also room in the back shed for a horse, cow and some chickens. Little did we know that the sweat from the animals would eat off the paint on the car. Each year too, we had a good garden. When we left good Old Slim (our horse) lived out the remaining years at Harold Scotvold's. The story of "Slim" is another story . . . nothing like a horse to give a preacher horse-sense in carrying out a ministry.

Esther and I have always enjoyed the people we have been privileged to serve. There are many things that we are very thankful for . . . the study, reading, and acceptance of the Word of God . . . during the week Bible Study people would walk, ride horseback, and do almost anything to get there for the Study of the Word and for prayer. Children would be along . . . laying all over the floor . . . is it any wonder then, that for a solid two years there was a continuing revival going on . . . many who gave their hearts and souls to the Lord Jesus Christ . . . a

real harvest of souls. The fruits we were experiencing were much due to the faithful pastors who had laid good foundations before us. We thank God for them.

I remember the huge snow drifts . . . often the spring waters would cover the road to St. Joseph . . . we would steer faithful Slim into what was the road . . . hoping that he would find his way across. He always did.

We remember, how Grandpa and Grandma Lomnes would come to the parsonage early Christmas morning with a boxful of goodies . . . then too my cousin Anton, going past our kitchen window carrying half a pig . . . a thank offering gift . . . deeply appreciated by the family.

I remember getting ready for a hunting trip . . . Lester Lomnes was going to milk the Jersey. He couldn't figure out what was hitting him (a hole in Jersey's tit). When he came in the whole front of his coat was covered with milk.

I remember not wearing a gown. How my suit was so threadbare that Esther had patched it more than once . . . and when I would exert myself more than usual while in the pulpit . . . you could hear that tear . . . to the calamity of having the organist sitting just to the left of me . . . wondering if I was going to make it home or not in one piece.

I remember the fine "all-family" Luther League programs we had . . . both young and old celebrating together . . . songs, recitations. . . . What a family builder this proved to be . . . interested in what would come out of this fine group of singers, etc.

I remember how one week day we had a fire in the basement . . . when Esther had to throw down one of her good quilts to fight the fire out . . . I remember too, coming home late from a Board Meeting (Sunset Home). In putting the children to bed Esther had struck a match . . . and a spark had gone over to the curtains . . . when she got back down to the kitchen she saw a bright light . . . thinking that I was arriving home . . . I didn't show up . . . the light kept getting brighter . . . she went upstairs . . . and the curtains and paper were on fire . . . with good presence of mind she first got the children down . . . and then proceeded to take the water pail, full of water . . . upstairs and by throwing dippers full of water she managed to extinguish the flames . . . when I did arrive home she was sitting in the bed . . . shaking like a leaf from the narrow escape she had. What a night!

I remember too that this was a time when the children were small . . . and the many kind and thoughtful things you as parishioners did for our family. No wonder the children always enjoyed coming home to "Armena" after spending a day in town or having been on a trip somewhere.

How good it was too, to have so many of you drop in for a cup of coffee . . . even our parents walked from Camrose to visit us.

Then the three sessions it was my privilege to teach at the Lutheran Bible School and the fine fellowship we had with many folks there.

Yes, we had many wonderful times in Armena Store with John Walker and his wife Mabel . . . yes how busy John was with secular things, store, etc. . . . and yet he had plenty of time to help out in the Sunday School, Luther League, and the Church. Those were also the days of "Good Hospitality". No one seemed to have much . . . and yet of what they had, they shared . . . and so we had many meals, lunches, good fun times as we would reach out to many friends and loved ones. Where has the spirit of hospitality gone? I think that we have lost something here that it would add much to our life if we would just drop in for awhile . . . or just amble over for coffee and lunch without so much concern about what the house looks like, or how we are dressed.

Music was always a great time in Armena, St. Joseph, and Bethlehem parishes. We seemed to always have plenty of "Special Music". We always had such a variety as well solos . . . duets . . . quartettes . . . youth choirs . . . senior choirs . . . etc.



Scandia Male Quartette 1960. Lester Lomnes, Evert and Edwin Grue, Vernon Lyseng.

I remember Mrs. Klemmet Lyseng as we were travelling to church by sleigh . . . I had accepted the call to go to Calvary Lutheran in Edmonton . . . (first Mission Church ever started in Canada, that Esther and I had the privilege of starting) . . . I said that I

would go up the steeple to fix and paint it . . . and she said "You might just as well" do something like that, because we hated to leave and they felt the same way with us.

There are many events that we could go into . . . suffice it now to say . . . "Farvel."

The Story of Old Skandia Cemetery by Martin Hendrickson

When the early settlers settled in the Armena district in the 1890's there was no cemetery around, so some of the pioneers got together and organized a cemetery board of directors. Their choice was three acres of land along the west side of the N.E. ¼ 2-48-21 W4, donated for a burial ground by the Territorial Government in Regina. This cemetery has been discontinued as several churches in the district have their own cemeteries. A survey was taken some years ago and it was decided there were about fifty graves in this cemetery. A few years ago a grant was given by the Provincial Government for the restoration and beautifying of old cemeteries. This money was used for building a new fence around it and erecting a cairn in memory of the pioneers that settled in this area before the turn of the century.

An interesting and unusual episode in the history of the old Skandia cemetery is that it harbors a convicted murderer. His grave is located by itself in the northwest corner of the cemetery.

In the late fall of 1901 a homesteader living a few miles west of Hay Lakes disappeared. Suspicion was directed to a neighbour and led to an R.C.M.P. investigation and court trial in Wetaskiwin. The trial was dismissed for lack of evidence as the victim's

body hadn't been found. After the trial the accused went home, and while fixing on his stovepipe was overcome by fumes and died. Shortly after this, in the late spring of 1902, the victim's body was found and investigation proved that the victim had been murdered. So fate cheated the law of the gallows.

The Armena Lutheran Brotherhood

When Pastor S. J. Rude served the Armena Parish, men of the Scandia congregation formed "The Scandia Lutheran Men's Club" in 1944.

Then in November of 1946, during Pastor Raymond Olson's ministry, the Men's Club was re-organized as the Armena Lutheran Brotherhood with Oscar Grue as president.

An early project was the sponsorship of the Church Bulletin, put out monthly by the pastor. However, one of the prime objectives of the organization was to sponsor and promote boys' work in the church and community. A Boy Scout Troop, consisting of both Cubs and Scouts, was formed in May of 1947. Their sponsorship of Scouting continued until 1956.

The Brotherhood then took on improving the appearance of, and caring for the Scandia cemetery. Later a Korean orphan was supported.

Various topics related to Christian living provided the bases for discussions. Youths and men also shared their musical talents. The men enjoyed this kind of fellowship at their regular monthly meetings in the various homes until the spring of 1972.

Girls' Organizations

In 1911 the girls from Scandia and Fridhem Congregations were organized at the Elling Olson home. The name given to the group was The Sunshine Club. The meetings were held monthly in homes of the members on a Saturday afternoon. The girls did lovely hand work, crocheting, embroidery and knitting, and each year a sale was held on May 24, the proceeds of which were divided equally between the two areas represented and was used to support various worthy causes.

Later, on March 15, 1918, the Dorcas Society was formed at the Herman Hanson home, to which both young girls and young men belonged. The girls did handwork and a devotional period was held. Money from sales was used for Foreign Missions. Some called this a courting group. Anyway several marriages between Scandia Norwegians and Fridhem Swedes took place! This group did not last very long, but the Sunshine Club continued to meet and serve young girls until on November 19, 1940, when sixteen Scandia girls affiliated with the Church spon-



Skandia Cemetery Monument.



Sunshine Club at Peder Förre home.



All finished and relaxing. Olga, Inez, Sophie, Helen Lyseng, Helen Thronsdon, Adeline Lyseng.



The Olaus Olson home where the Ladies' Aid was organized and services were held.

sored Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation, (L.D.R.). Inspirational programs, centered on Bible Study, were held monthly, and offerings taken were used to help out locally and to support Home and Foreign Missions.

These groups gave young women and girls good training in leadership, which stood them in good stead when they became Ladies Aid or W.M.F. and later L.C.W. members. Several of them became parish workers, church secretaries or married pastors. Some went on to serve on boards or as officers in the Canadian Church womens groups.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

In response to the Canadian Government's offer of homestead land to prospective immigrants, many settlers began arriving in this area, near the turn of the century. These people were largely of Norwegian descent and Lutheran background.

Almost as soon as they had built their homes, they would gather for Divine Worship. Reverend Bersvend Anderson held many of these services in the Olaus Olson home.

As was so often the case, the ladies of the district took the initiative. They organized a Ladies' Aid in 1904, and met the second Thursday of each month. The devotions were usually led by the pastor. The first was Rev. A. E. Hanson. The first officers elected were Mrs. Halvor Nomeland, Mrs. Olaus Olson, Mrs. Halvor Bjorge, and Miss Julia Johnson. The women busied themselves by making all kinds of fancy work, clothing and quilts. These were auctioned off at the annual picnic and sale. With the proceeds many church-related projects were financed.

Bethlehem Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1905. The first officers

were: President, M. P. Fuglem; Vice President, Andrew Johnson; Secretary, Olaus Olson; Trustees, Thore Thronson, Erick Severson, Ole Berge; Deacons, John Slind, Andrew Johnson, Jacob Danielson.

Meeting places were in the Thronson and Pretty Hill Schools and Fridhem Church. The charter members were: M. Fuglem, S. Kringen, O. and E. Severson, Olaus Olson, N. Dahl, T. Thronson, H. and O. Berge, O. Bjorgum, A. Johnson, H. Lomnes, O. B. Olson, J. Danielson, J. Slind and other families.

In 1908 it was decided to build a church and cemetery, if the Ladies' Aid would contribute five hundred and fifty dollars. A four acre site was chosen on a high level of land on the northeast corner of the N.E. ¼ 23-48-20 W4. In 1910 it was built on a foundation of cracked rock and cement, twenty-eight feet by forty-six feet with sixteen foot walls. The vestibule was ten feet by ten feet with a tall steeple. This was a landmark in the district and could be seen for many miles. It was known as, "The Little White Church on the Hill".

It took several years to complete and furnish the building. The heat was supplied by a big stove, with long pipes which also helped heat the building. On cold days we sat as close to the stove as possible. You'd roast on one side and freeze on the other!

Improvements were made over the early years. Plastering the walls, V-joint ceiling, alter ring and furnishing. The alter picture showing Jesus knocking at the door, was painted by Hoyme. Good pews were also added.

The Young People's Society was organized in 1916. Charter members were: Tilda Olson; Adolph, Sigvald, and Lillie Slind; John, Martin and Dick Olson; Milo and P. Juglem; John and Josephine Johnson; Clara, Petra and Pauline Kringen; Lydia, Conrad, and Harold Scotvold; Pauline Foer; Haddon Bronnum; and John Nelson. This organization under changing names, carried on an important mission all

the years of Bethlehem's existence. It was really "family oriented", serving all the congregation. The monthly programs were well planned and attended — making use of all the talent available. There were songs by the choir, quartettes, duets, readings, recitations, and many presentations. The pastor would have a short sermon.

The highlight of the year was the Christmas Program with the Sunday School. There were special musical presentations such as Easter and Christmas Contatas. At times, singers from the community would come and we'd present a Contata by a mass choir.

In his time, Albert Kringen was the main director. Later on Orpha was piano accompanist and leader. Financial help was given to several projects over the years.

Christian education for the children was given great importance. Services were irregular those years due to drifted roads and other conditions. Heating the church Sunday by Sunday wasn't practical. Parochial School was held for one month during summer holidays. This, together with teaching by their parents, gave the children their religious education. Some of the children took their confirmation instruction at Scandia.

In 1939, this congregation joined Scandia and St Joseph in forming the Armena Lutheran Parish.

As has already been shown in this write-up, the work in Bethlehem was carried on with the co-operation from all the organizations. So often the ladies made the suggestion and provided much of the money. The men went to work on the project! Shingling and painting the roof, painting the outside walls and fencing.

In 1947 a major renovating project was tackled.



Bethlehem Church Choir — 1964.



Putting basement under church. Back Row: Sigvald Slind, Ole Paulson Haugen, Siveron Heiberg, George McPhedron, Richard Thronson, Oscar Hall, Norman Paulson Haugen. Middle Row: Clarence Kringen, Theol Watland, Harold Scotvold, Melvin Severson (hidden), Nelvin Thronson. Front Row: Albert Kringen, John Thronson, Lawrence Severson.

The rock foundation and dirt was removed and replaced by a basement under the church; also a side entrance, front entry and library. The slanting "opera" floor was raised and made level, giving more head room in the basement. The inside was painted and the church was ready for Christmas services.



Bethlehem Parochial School. Olaf Rosland (on horse). Standing, Left to Right: Clarence Kringen, Richard Thronsdon, Harry Erickson, Erva Rosland, Olive Olson, Clara Scotvold, Olga Hall. Front: Agnes Olson, Selma Hall, Jeanette Rosland, Thresa Rosland, Torger Rosland, Arthur Olson, Nelvin Thronsdon.



Bethlehem Volunteer workers, basement building — 1947.

What a thrill it was to enter the church to the musical duet played on the organ and the newly purchased piano! The Luther League and Sunday School presented a Christmas Contata — "Glory to God."

In 1948, Bethlehem hosted the Camrose Circuit Convention. At this time there was a service of dedication for the basement and a new cornerstone was laid.

Other special projects along the way have been



Bethlehem, 1948. Camrose Circuit Convention and laying of corner-stone.

the finishing of the basement and kitchen facilities. The first electric power was supplied by a home built one hundred and ten volt generator. Later on, Calgary Power was available and a coal stoker purchased. The ladies soon had an electric stove.



Cleaners. Back: Martha Thronsdon, Agnes Severson, Enid Watland, Pauline Kringen, Lillie McPhedron, Jean Severson, Petra Kringen, Kathleen Johnson. Centre: May Stavne, Wilma Scotvold, Marion Hall, Lorna Severson, Nellie Severson. Front: Amy Kringen, Irene and Raymond Mickelson.



Next the yard! George McPhedron, Theol Watland, Vernon Stavne, Richard and Nelvin Thronson, Clarence Kringen, Oscar Hall, James Severson, Wilfred Johnson, Harold and Rodney Scotvold at Cemetery clean-up day.

The Fiftieth Anniversary was celebrated on August 17, 1955. Many friends and former members came from far and near to help observe this memorable occasion.

The theme of the Sixtieth Anniversary held in August, 1965 was "Christ's Measure of the Church". At the closing service there was a slide presentation, "If Things Could Speak". This was a joint effort by many members who helped produce this show.

Bethlehem Church was completely destroyed by

fire of unknown origin in the early morning of Friday, March 13, 1970. Only the chimney was left standing. Someone even ran off with the weather vane marked 1910. We would have really appreciated having that as a part of our cemetery marker. There had been several acts of vandalism in the few preceding years. The congregation voted to disband.



This monument marks the site of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

The pastors who served throughout the years were Bersvend Anderson and A. E. Hanson prior to organizing. Then came:

T. T. Hanson	1905-1911
C. L. Jothén	1911-1914
A. H. Solheim	1915-1927
N. N. Carlson	1930-1937
H. H. Solheim	1937-1939
S. J. Rude	1939-1945
R. O. Olson	1945-1951
J. H. Rostad	1951-1956
R. N. Nostbakken	1956-1957
H. O. Holte	1957-1963
H. G. Frostad	1964-1967
O. Pedersen	1967-1969
H. Lovrod	1969-1970

A Cemetery Association was formed to operate and maintain the cemetery. A contractor was hired to build a chain link fence to enclose the grounds. A suitable sign was erected in the cemetery and a stone marker on the site of the church.

A service of dedication was held on September 13, 1970, with the unveiling of the site markers. Decoration day is observed each year in August.

It was with sadness we chose to disband, but this seemed the wise thing to do. Members have joined other congregations and are now serving there.

In his closing talk, Pastor Lovrod expressed the thought that "This is the end of an era, not a failure on the part of the congregation, but rather, 'Mission Accomplished'."



Bethlehem Church built in 1910, remodelled in 1947, and destroyed by fire on March 13, 1970.

History of Fridhem Church

The first concern of our early settlers was, naturally, to “get a roof over their heads”. Their homes were built of native logs and later additions were made, and finished, with lumber sawed in local sawmills. They were completed with the few vital possessions they brought with them when they em-



Fridhem Church as viewed from north.

igrated from Minnesota, Iowa, or the Dakotas. These vital possessions, in addition to such obvious necessities as clothing, bedding, and cooking utensils, included their Bibles, hymn books, and devotional books. On Sunday afternoons, they would gather in their homes for worship service followed by a friendly cup of coffee and flatbread. Later, when school houses were built, they would occasionally meet there. One early settler tells of arising at 3:00 a.m. to drive four miles by horse and sleigh to “Jul Otta” (very early candlelight Christmas worship) at 5:00 a.m. at the Lyseng School.

Some surveying had already been done in this area by men sent out by the Minnesota Conference of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. These men travelled by train as far as possible, and from there, over unknown paths, by oxen and cart or horses and wagon. In 1900, one such man, student C. W. Vetell, after meeting with discouraging circumstances, wrote back to the Rev. Fleming, “I am tired of this field. In this area, there are scarcely ten persons who are fully devoted to our work as it now stands.” On August 26, 1901, he attempted to organize the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Tabor Congregation in Bittern Lake district of Wetaskiwin, with some of the later Fridhem congregation as charter members, but this did not materialize. By 1902, there had arrived quite a few Swedish settlers who were concerned not only about their own spiritual growth, but that of their children.

On July 21, 1902, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Fridhem Congregation of Pretty Hill, N.W.T. was organized under the direction of the Rev. Per Almgren, then pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Wetaskiwin. The meeting was officially called to order by Pastor Almgren. He read, in Swedish, from the 40th Chapter of Isaiah, followed by prayer. This meeting was conducted in the Swedish language and the minutes were recorded in Swedish, as were the reports up to, and including, the annual meeting of January 3, 1934. Request was made to belong to the Minnesota Conference. The Constitution, as a whole, was accepted. Mr. Charlie E. Anderson was elected as secretary for the day, and for one year following. The Council was to consist of three deacons, Carl J. Anderson for a three-year term, Gustaf Anderson for a two-year term, and Peter Monson for a one-year term; and, three trustees, John Flink for a three-year term, Frank Nelson for a two-year term, and Andrew Johnson for a one-year term. Andrew Johnson, Ole Nelson, and Charlie E. Anderson were elected to find a suitable location for the church. Charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Charlie E. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson, Peter Monson, Alfred Anderson, John Flink, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Ola B. Nelson, Andrew Johnson, and Peter B. Nelson. Other early members were Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Skalin, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Grundberg, Mr. and Mrs. Axel Selin, and Mr. and Mrs. Gust Bard.

Most of the expenses of the congregation were met by a very efficient “kvinnoforening” (Ladies Aid) which was organized at the same time as the congregation. It was made up of very energetic and resourceful pioneer women. Apparently, by common consent, Mrs. Carl J. Anderson assumed the office of President, which she held for some time. She was succeeded by Mrs. P. A. Grundberg. Meetings were held once a month and were very informal. Inciden-



Mrs. Carl J. Anderson out for a buggy ride.



The building of the Fridhem Church.

tally, men also attended these early meetings. Guests were royally treated and were seated around the substantially filled table. At that time, there were no rules regarding the number of varieties of food the hostess could serve.

Throughout the years, the “kvinder” contributed large sums of money towards the building, furnishing, and later, the upkeep of the church. At their meetings, their knitting needles would be flashing as they knit socks, mittens, and scarves for their fall sale. Other articles on sale would be wool-filled piece-quilts priced at \$5.00 (they would bring \$150.00 to \$200.00 today!). By spring, the ladies had produced another supply of quilts, embroidered pillowcases, tablecloths, and crocheted doilies, so another sale, with a picnic, was held. The highlight of this picnic was a fill of home-made ice cream!

On January 21, 1904, a congregational meeting was held, presided over by Pastor Almgren, at which time the location of the church was approved. Three acres of the NW¼ 9-48-20 was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson. It was decided that all members who had horses should haul one-quarter cord of stone (the amount needed to fill a single box of a wagon) for the foundation of the church. All the stones in Fridhem Church were gathered locally. All work was to be volunteer labor, valued at \$0.25 per hour.

At a congregational meeting on March 1, 1905, a Building Committee, consisting of P. A. Grundberg, P. Monson, A. K. Selin, and C. E. Anderson, was elected. With their meager equipment, lots of determination, and ambition inspired by their strong faith in God, the congregation set their minds and hands to building a house of worship.

Ground breaking exercises took place May 22, 1905. At this time, the Building Committee gave this report:

Size of church to be	28' x 40' x 14' high
Lumber, hardware, windows, doors	\$831.45
Paid	<u>\$741.45</u>
Remaining	\$90.00

Mrs. Carl J. Anderson and Miss Matilda Grundberg (later Mrs. Thorvald Thronson) were faithful workers in collecting money for the church. They canvassed the neighborhood, travelling by horse and buggy and on horseback.



First Confirmation Class in Fridhem Church. Standing: Emil Grundberg, Carl Anderson, Sidney Skogman. Sitting: Nannie Falk, Hilda Monson, Hilma Anderson, Tina Olson.

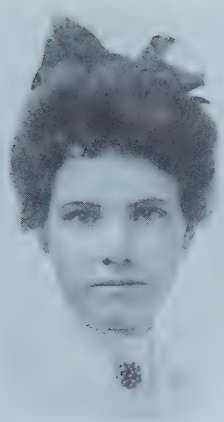
The first confirmation class of this congregation was confirmed at the Gustaf Anderson home by Pastor Almgren in 1903. The class consisted of Alma, Victor, and Emma Anderson, Emma and Magnus Monson, Edwin Nelson, Hans Busk, and Clara Anderson. In the fall of 1905, a class was confirmed in the unfinished church. This class consisted of Carl Anderson, Sidney Skogman, Emil Grundberg, Nanny Falk, Hilda Monson, Hilma Anderson, and Tina Olson.

The first wedding to be held in Fridhem Church was that of Ida Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson, and Theodore Thronson, on December 12, 1905.

By this time, Pastor Almgren had organized other congregations in Alberta and now had six congregations and thirty preaching places. He pleaded for help from the Minnesota Conference and finally a student, Axel Eriksson, was sent out. On February 19, 1906, after a round of preaching engagements, Pastor Almgren was travelling through a stretch of woods where homesteaders were felling trees. One



Theodore Thronson.



Ida Anderson.

of the trees crashed down on his buggy, fatally injuring him. He had preached a sermon at Pigeon Lake on the text "For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens". (2 Cor. 5:1) The hymn he chose for the congregation was "Hemlandssangen" — "My home



Marker at Pigeon Lake where the Rev. Almgren was killed.

I seek and homeward here I journey". Pastor Almgren was laid to rest outside the walls of Fridhem Church.

At a congregational meeting on September 27, 1906, with student Axel Eriksson presiding, it was decided to plaster the church with cement and that all members should come on October 4th to help lath the church.

At a meeting on December 15, 1906, it was decided to haul lumber for the ceiling so it could dry during the winter. It was also decided to haul logs to Knut Lyseng's sawmill, located on the SW¼ 13-48-21, so they could be sawed into laths during the winter months. The lumber was planed at Thore Grue's.

The Rev. Olaf Lindgren became pastor of this congregation in 1906 and served until 1914.

The church was dedicated in October, 1907, with sixty-three confirmed members on the roll. Income for 1907 was \$439.10. It was decided that the church would be finished by the summer of 1908.

In 1908, a Young People's Society was organized. Their main project was to purchase an organ for the church. Records show that they held oyster suppers and made a profit of from \$30.00 to \$40.00 at each supper. In 1909, they purchased a pump organ for \$190.00. Mr. Victor Lindgren became the first organist. Mrs. Carl Anderson (Cecelia) was later to become Fridhem's organist, a position she would hold for forty years. The "Young People" also bought the three-piece silver communion set, costing \$32.60, and the candle sticks on the altar, at a price of \$7.95. The girls of the Young People's Society crocheted the yards of lace which bordered the altar cloths.

In 1908, twenty-four confirmed members and thirty-four children left the congregation to organize the Wilhelmina Congregation, southeast of Hay Lakes. They became a parish with Fridhem.



Fridhem organist, Mrs. Carl A. Anderson.



Convention at Fridhem, early 1900's.



Confirmation Class of 1914. Rev. Lindgren, Clara Mickelson, Nannie Grundberg, Esther Erickson, Ethel Nelson, Hilda Busk, Mabel Nelson, Alfred Busk.



Confirmation Class of 1910. Amanda Person, Hilma Nelson, Gerda Hanson, Florence Skogman, Oscar Selin, Rev. Lindgren, Edna Lindgren.

Membership on January 7, 1909, was forty-nine. The pastor's salary in 1910 was \$200.00. Each member was to pay \$2.50.

In 1910, Pastor Lindgren, thirteen confirmed members and six children moved to Czar, Alberta and there organized the Emmanuel Lutheran Congregation. This left forty-four confirmed members and twenty-two children at Fridhem. From this time, until the Rev. Heiner arrived in 1915, Fridhem parish was served by Pastor Lindgren, commuting from Czar, and by Mr. Carl Gustaf Anderson.

In 1911, eleven acres north of the church were purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson for parsonage grounds, at a price of \$15.00 per acre. The pastor's salary was now raised to \$250.00.

In 1915, the church was finished with plaster inside, but, it still needed a few trimmings. Mr. Olaf Walin painted the altar painting on the wall in the chancel. He made the pulpit, altar, and altar ring at his home in Hughenden, using a hand lathe. When it was all finished, he brought them up, piece by piece, and placed them properly in the church. Amy Williams, his daughter, tells of remembering her helping her father to turn the lathe for this and other projects.

In the fall of 1915, the Fridhem and Wilhelmina

congregations met to consider the building of a parsonage at Fridhem. This was accomplished by Wilhelmina supplying part of the lumber, materials, and labor.

The parsonage was built in 1916 at a cost of \$800.00. Pastor Heiner and his family were its first occupants. He served this parish until his death in 1918, a victim of the influenza epidemic. He was also buried in Fridhem Cemetery. Until the Rev. C. G. Gronberg arrived in 1923, the Rev. Otto Eklund served this parish as Vice-Pastor, with Rev. C. G. Anderson and Rev. Leonard Alexander helping out.

On June 22, 1924, the Women's Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Charlie Johnson of Waterglen. This group served faithfully in support of missions, both at home and abroad, until its amalgamation with the Ladies' Aid on December 4, 1956. The resulting organization retained the name of Women's Missionary Society.

Pastor Gronberg served as pastor until 1930, when the Rev. Axel Eriksson, the former student helper to Pastor Almgren, accepted the call as pastor. Pastor Eriksson served until his death on October 10, 1937. He was also buried in Fridhem Cemetery.

Fridhem, from the very start, operated a very active Sunday School, organized by Mrs. Carl J.



First altar painting in Fridhem Church.

Anderson. We cannot recall the names of the many faithful teachers who planted the seed of the word of God in the lives of many children. We take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks.

The Sunday School, in co-operation with the Young People's Society, sponsored a Christmas concert each year, on the evening of Christmas Day. The church was always filled to capacity. In later years the concert was changed to the third Sunday of December.

During these years, the Young People's Society continued to thrive. Not only members of Fridhem, but many neighboring church members belonged. Programs of local talent, followed by a fellowship hour, were held the third Sunday evening of each month.

A Sunshine Club, consisting of girls from Fridhem and Scandia, had been organized by Mrs. Jim Erickson and Mrs. Eling Olson in 1915. The initial purpose was to raise money for a children's home on the territory of the Canada Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Funds were raised by holding a picnic and a sale of handwork, made by the girls and their mothers, on or near May 24th. By this time, the church had altered its plans, from a



Louise Lindblom, a member of Fridhem, was first resident at the Lutheran Home for Aged in Wetaskiwin.

children's home to a home for the aged. The money was given to the Lutheran Home for the Aged, in Wetaskiwin. Mrs. Louisa Lindblom, a member of Fridhem, became the first guest. The Sunshine Club was later replaced by the Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation.

In 1933, the church parlor was built with the help of the Women's Missionary Society, the Young People's Society, and the Sunshine Club.

In 1938, the Women's Missionary Society made Mrs. Gustaf Anderson a Pioneer Life Member and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson was memorialized as a lady who loved her church and its activities.

The Rev. C. A. Bernhardson, one-time Dean of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, served as Vice-Pastor from 1938 until his death in 1947. He was buried at Fridhem. And so, the remains of four pastors await the resurrection at Fridhem.

For six weeks during the summer of 1947, the Rev. Bertel Edquist, from Chicago, served this parish. Following this, we depended upon a student, Les Wassberg, and the ever faithful, Pastor Otto Eklund.

Before Rev. C. R. Pearson's arrival as pastor of the congregation, in August, 1949, the parsonage was moved to the corner of 56 Street and 51 Avenue in Camrose. With volunteer labor from Wilhelmina and



30th Anniversary at Fridhem.

Fridhem, and Mr. Molvick as foreman, the house was completely re-decorated. It was later sold and a new parsonage was built on the Bethel Church property.

A very active Junior Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. C. R. Pearson who was, at the time, President of the Alberta District Women's Missionary Society. Children from the community, and neighboring congregations, attended the Junior Missionary Society. Its purpose was to emphasize the need for, and the work of missions, both at home and abroad. They were an ambitious group of boys and girls that made serviette holders for the church parlors and for the dining room at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute. They also, with the help of their mothers, made a friendship quilt which was given to the Lutheran Home for the Aged, in Wetaskiwin. It wasn't all work — they had lots of fun too! In winter,



Fridhem Junior Missionary Society out for sleigh ride, 1956.

they went on sleigh rides and unforgettable tobogganing parties, followed by hot cakes and sausages at the Earle Erickson home. One Christmas, at the Clifford Carlson home, the J. M. S. sponsored a "Crutch and Cane Party" for all the handicapped in the neighborhood. There are many fond recollections of this little group of kids!

In 1952, it became evident that people of our congregation, who had moved to Camrose to retire or seek employment, wished to organize a congregation. At a congregation meeting on January 12, 1952, the motion, to organize a mission congregation in Camrose, was carried.

For many years Fridhem Church was heated by a heating stove that had a pipe that extended the length of the church. This pipe, presumably, helped produce heat; it was later replaced by a gravity furnace. In the spring of 1953, electricity was put into the church. When the Lyseng School was closed, Fridhem congregation got the bell and it was laboriously installed in the church's belfry. After the church was closed, it mysteriously disappeared.

In 1955, Pastor Pearson accepted the call as Dean of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute. Pastor John Arvidson, of Wetaskiwin, served as pastor until Rev. Robert Ek came as pastor of the parish; it now consisted of Wilhelmina, Fridhem, and Bethel. In 1960, he accepted a call to Regina and was replaced by the Rev. Paul Swedberg, who served until the closing of the church in 1963. Rev. Swedberg left for a mission field in Africa in 1965.

On June 16th and 17th, 1962, the congregation celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a two-day meet-



Fridhem re-decorators, 1962.

ing under the theme, "The Family of God". Many former members and friends were present.

Fridhem congregation continued to function and serve as usual, although, we were becoming few in number. Many of our members were leaving us; some were finding employment elsewhere or were retiring to town, while others had died. At our annual meeting in January, 1963, the crucial decision to disband was made. Closing ceremonies were conducted on February 23, 1963, by Pastor Swedberg. Following the ceremonies was a dinner, served by the ladies.

We cannot recall that any of our men served in World War I but the following members served in World War II: Andrew Erickson, Herman Erickson, Stanley Erickson, Verner Bard, Gordy Shold, Wilbur Thronson, Arthur Bard, Arthur Skalin, and Boyd Lindberg. Elsie Shold also participated as a member of the W.R.C.N.S.

The Women's Missionary Society conferred Life Membership of the following members: Mrs. Annie Erickson, Mrs. Carl Anderson, Mrs. Jonas



Unveiling the Cairn with the names of unmarked graves.

Grundberg, Mrs. Oscar Bard, Mrs. Theo Carlson, Mrs. Robert Rasmussen, Mrs. Guttorm Rosland, and Myrna Carlson.

Besides providing the nucleus for the three congregations, Fridhem has given four men to the ministry, Herbert, Harold, and Paul Eriksson, and Donald Rasmussen; and, one woman, Helen Eriksson, to the diaconate. It should be noted that Harold and Paul were the first two young Canadian to be fully trained in Canada and were ordained on calls to the Canadian field.

So ends the story of Fridhem Congregation. We are indeed grateful to our forefathers, who worked so hard under primitive conditions to leave us this blessed heritage, and our faithful pastors, who struggled, through snowbanks in winter and mud holes in summer, to bring us the word of God. The remains of many of these await the resurrection, outside the walls of the church.

May the seeds sown here continue to grow and bear fruit.

Schools

THORDENSKJOLD SD #421				John Grundberg H. Atema	A. Anderson Nels Johnson Hans Palm ↔ Ted Mattson ↔
T-48 R-21				John Bittner Paul Schweitzer Wilson	Albert Werner Herman Atema Bill Atema
Ignace Syeh W. SchoenKnecht	J.P. Strand Tilda Monroe M. Busenius	August Henschel H. Busenius L. Hendrickson	I.T. Broen John E. Broen Gordon Lindseth	Albert SchoenKnecht L. SchoenKnecht	Rev. A.E. Hanson L. SchoenKnecht A. Peterson
Anton Olson Gordon Olson	M. Schneider Alfred + Hilda Wegner	Christopher Kelstad Wolfgang + Tina Buban	John E. Broen Albert + Doris SchoenKnecht	Walter Paulson Manfred Moren	Bert H. Lomnes Lester Lomnes L. SchoenKnecht
Ole A. Olson Anton Olson Gordon Olson Emma Bittner	Fred Nelson Leo Grams	John E. Broen Lawrence Hendrickson	Ole T. Movold Tom Movold Adolph Peterson Douglas Peterson	H.B. Lomnes Bert H. Lomnes Lester Lomnes	Knute E. Lyseng George Lyseng Doug. Lyseng
Joseph Nadeau J.E. Broen Wolfgang Buban	Andrew Boe Ed. Hendrickson Norman Moe	Leo Grams Edward Knopp	John E. Broen Maynard Moe	O.H. Hendrickson Tom Movold Adolph Peterson W.M. Gary Rolston Peterson	Bert H. Lomnes Lester Lomnes Frank MacGinnis
Henry Henderickson Eileen Kartz Ernest Kartz G.O. Hendrickson R. Skaret	Anton Stavne Clara Miller	Knute E. Lyseng G.O. Hendrickson Ed. Hendrickson Mike Tchir	Carl Lyseng Andrew Solheim E. Grue Fredrick + Gillian Dyck	Thordenskjold SD #421 Kate B. Goodwell Andrew Solheim Harry + Agnes Wayne Dunn	Knute E. Lyseng George Lyseng
		John Ross Gustar Anderson David Fetznert	Martin Steen E.J. Nickerson Wolfgang Buban	Oscar Thompson E.J. Nickerson George + Helen Raynard	John Connaught S. Cardiff Sophia Famulak
					Lars B. Tuttle Charles O. Stevens Klemmet Lyseng Don Green

Thordenskjold S.D. No. 421

A History

Dorothy Deverell Lyseng

Prior to 1894 there were only a handful of settlers and squatters in the Armena district but with the coming of the Grues, Movalds, Moes and others it became necessary to consider the education of the children. Early in 1896 a school committee consisting of Thore Grue, Ole Lofsvold and Evan N. Froen petitioned the Council of Public Instruction of the North West Territories at Regina, to erect the Thordenskjold School District. The Council having given assent to the petition, a ratepayers' meeting was called for March 16, 1896 to decide if the petition would be granted and to elect three trustees. At this meeting Thore S. Grue was elected chairman and secretary, Ole T. Movald was named treasurer and Theodore Hanell was the third member. It was also decided to erect a building eighteen feet by twenty-two feet to serve as a school house.

The school district was given the weighty name of a great Norwegian sailor Peter Thordenskjold. The lumber for the building was made from logs hauled from White Water Lake and sawed on Thore Grue's sawmill, and rate-payers were to furnish the labor at one dollar a day. Thore Grue made the desks for one dollar each. Debentures were sold to the amount of \$300.00 to provide funds. The school was not built that first year nor in 1897 but an assessment roll was prepared and listed the following: Thore Grue, Carl Berg, Andrew Boe, John Moe, Sam Bronken, Peter Syberg, Ole Movald, Simon Grue, Martin Steen, Ole Hannell, Evan Froen, Ole Arison, and Ole Lofsvold. It is interesting to note that taxes were four and one-half cents per acre, or \$5.00 per quarter and that personal property was taxed as well as real estate. Horses were assessed at the rate of \$10.00 and cows at \$6.00 a head.

At the annual meeting in January 1898 it was decided to build the school twenty feet by twenty-four feet instead of eighteen by twenty-two feet as originally planned. A purchase slip is interesting by way of comparison with prices of today:

6 pairs windows	\$9.00
1 door	\$2.25
38 pounds nails	1.85
1 minute book	.80
1 temporary minute book	.10
2 bushels lime	1.00
1 door lock	.75
1 pair hinges	.20
Total	\$15.95

The school was built that summer of 1898. The original building is still standing on the Everett Grue



Beginners at Thordenskjold School 1927. Left to Right: Ivan Lyseng, Palma Lomnes (Gunderson), Jimmy Olafson, Florence Jones (Lyseng), Orin Lyseng.

place, formerly the Andrew Solheim farm. A Mr. Atcheson was contacted to teach for \$45.00 a month. However, the records show that Mr. Atcheson did not teach but in January 1899 school opened with Mr. William Gemmell in charge at \$45.00 later \$50.00 a month. Mr. Gemmell held a first class certificate and taught for 126 days.

The class of 1899: Julia Waldum, Simon Grue, Oscar Thompson, Tommy Movold, Carrie Boe, Alfred Thompson, Olaf Larsen, Alma Larsen, Bella Grue, Inga Movald, Ingnol, Tilda Larson, Anton Larson, Adolph Moe, Ralph Boe, Lena Movald, Andrew Moe, Lars Grue, Betsy Thompson, Daisy Bronken, Gertie Moe, Alfred Bronken, Johnny Thompson, Ida Boe, Tilda Movald, Idie Thompson, Selma Bronken, Theodore Thompson and Oscar Grue. There were 29 students ranging from 7 to 17 years of age.



Grade VIII Class — Thordenskjold School, 1928. Lester Lomnes, Klemmet Lyseng, Helen (Lyseng) Torneby, Dorothy (Deverell) Lyseng (teacher), Alvin Peterson, Lawrence Hendrickson.

For several years, until 1911, in fact, school was operated on a six month basis beginning in October, November or January and running until May, June or July. Teachers for those years were: Miss Harriet Bember, Miss Lizzie Shaw, R. B. Ritchie, Miss Shaw (second term), Miss Edna Barber and in 1905 when Alberta became a province, Mr. Iner Gilchrist was the teacher. Others were Mr. Craig, Daniel McCormick, Miss E. Scott and Miss Jorgine Hendrickson who taught for two terms. In 1911 A. W. Bowles kept school open for 188 days, and received \$60.00 a month. For the first time school expenses were over \$500.00. The next year taxes went up to \$8.00 per quarter!

During those years the teacher boarded wherever there was a room available. In this way nearly every home at one time or another boarded the teacher for sums ranging from \$12.00 to \$20.00 a month. Miss E. Scott, daughter of Thomas Scott, who came to live in Camrose in 1906, taught from January to June in 1908. Miss Scott, later Mrs. Welsh of Calgary, upon seeing the Jubilee edition of the Camrose Canadian (June 1955) wrote a letter to the Editor from which I quote: "I must pay a glowing tribute to those wonderful, warm-hearted friendly people among whom I taught for those six months. They took the green Scotch lassie right into their homes and hearts and gave her the feeling she was really one of them . . . It is truly a community of which one can be proud, and I congratulate myself on having been one small part of it for even six months forty-five years ago." I am sure this testimonial is echoed in the hearts of many of the teachers through the years.

In 1911-12 Jorgine Hendrickson taught a second term and in 1913 Miss Lettie Lobb was the teacher. During that year plans were set on foot to build a new frame school-house on the N.W. ¼-11-48-21 W4. It was built in 1914 and taxes went up to \$12.00 a quarter. This building was equipped with a belfrey and bell. Miss Mary Anderson taught in 1914-15. 1916 was noteworthy as the teacher was Palmer Anderson, born in China of missionary parents and who later became a missionary himself. At that time coal was used for the first time for heating, and a 10% discount was allowed on taxes paid before a certain date. The next teacher was Miss Alma Lyseng and she told me the trustees told her they were "fencing her in" when they built a fence around the school yard. However, it didn't help as she moved to the New Salem school, south of Camrose, where she taught one year then married Mr. Edward Hoyme. She now lives in Camrose.

1918 was the year of the Spanish Influenza epidemic and school was only open for 87 days. The record does not say who the 1918 teacher was, but in

1919, the teacher was Miss Mable Waterston who married Mr. Jones of Tofield, a relative of Mrs. Klemmet Lyseng and Mrs. James Moore; she was followed by Miss Maude Anderson. At that time an organ was bought for the school and some parents were asking that a barn be built. The barn was built in 1919 and taxes went up to \$20.00 a quarter. I asked Bennie Lomnes how they had managed to get along without a barn for so long. He said that was easy — the children walked to school!

Miss Emma Hilland who married Mr. Aisey Broen, and Miss Judith Ellingson were the next teachers. In 1921-22 Miss Vera Lideen taught and received the fabulous sum of \$1,100.00 which upped the taxes to \$30.00. Mrs. Grace Cox followed Miss Lideen. Miss Christine Berquist, later wife of Missionary to Madagascar, Peter Stolee, was the next teacher followed by Mrs. Magda (Geo.) Hendrickson, daughter of pioneer Pastor Bersvend Anderson of Bardo. The depression was already being felt at that time and the salary had dropped to \$950.00 with a corresponding drop in taxes. In 1924 a furnace was installed at the school in a small room in the entry. Magna Hendrickson taught for two years. Edward Lyseng's daughter Adeline, now Mrs. Martin Moe of Edmonton, tells me of receiving an award from Mrs. Hendrickson for no whispering from January to June!

In 1926 Miss Alma Harber taught from September to December and on January 3, 1927 Miss Dorothy Deverell (the writer) began a term lasting until June 1929. I boarded at the John Walker home, in the Armena store, and walked down the railroad track to school, sometimes getting a ride on the speeder with the section men. During the first holiday period a basement was dug under the school and the furnace was moved down so the floor would be warmer. I remember playing follow the leader for an hour or so on cold winter mornings, until we warmed up, as the janitor was a school boy who got there at the same



This group of girls from Thordenskjold School were entered in the Camrose and District Music Festival. They presented the action song, "Blowing Bubbles".

time as the rest of us did. Magna Hendrickson and I both remember the children taking their books to sit by the furnace where they roasted on one side and froze on the other. When I first went there, there were twelve or thirteen children as follows: Hazel Lyseng (Jornlin), Helen Lyseng (Torneby), Lawrence Hendrickson, Lester Lomnes, Klemment Lyseng, Emily Lyseng (Sware), Evelyn Lyseng (Sware), Willie Shoenknecht, Effie Peterson (Stapely), Bernice Lomnes (Knudtson), Vernon Lyseng, Maynard Moe, Jimmy Olafson, Ewalt Shoenknecht. In those years the grade ones began school at Easter, though probably more would come in September making an extra grade. Also at that time the Department allowed Grade IX to be taught providing it did not interfere with the regular work. In 1932 I married Mr. Robert Lyseng and lived in the district for the next thirty-one years. In 1929-1930 Miss Emma Hendrickson (Mrs. Eugene Ewald) taught for one year.

Mr. Bennie Lomnes, just out of Normal School, began to teach September 1930 and continued on until September 1940 when he was moved by the superintendent to Meeting Creek. In 1934 Bennie married Miss Clara Scotvold and they lived in a teacherage put up by his father, on the school grounds. Miss Dora Campbell, now Mrs. Borgstrom, then taught for one year after which the school was closed, as a spanking new two-room school had been built in the village of Armena. The Thordenskjold building was then moved into Camrose and was used as the office for the Camrose School Division No. 20 which had been formed in 1938. In 1963 the County of Camrose No. 22 was formed and in 1963 a new County building was erected on the shore of Mirror Lake in Camrose. For a time the Thordenskjold building housed museum exhibits until in 1967 they were moved into the new Centennial Museum building. At the present time the old school stands unused.



Thirty-two Thordenskjold pupils, 1940.

Trustees who served over the years besides those mentioned at the beginning were: John Moe, John Broen, C. Kelstad, Martin Steen, Halsten Lomnes, Hans Mortenson, K. K. Lyseng, G. O. and Henry Hendrickson, Carl Lyseng, Robert Lyseng and Tommy Movald. In 1903 Bert Lomnes was elected as treasurer and was bonded to the amount of \$400.00 under the signatures of Seivert Kringen, and John Moe. Mr. Lomnes continued to serve in this capacity until the enlarged school division was formed in 1938, a term of thirty-six years. He was also secretary for many of those years, a truly outstanding period of public service.

How well I remember the programs put on by the students on Friday afternoons. Solos, duets, trios etc. as well as recitations, readings, plays and even organ solos developed the aesthetic qualities as well as the organizational abilities of the students, and of course, the annual Christmas Concert was one of the high-lights of the entire year for both parents and children. During the thirties a dramatic society consisting of the young people of the community put on several plays under the direction of Mr. Bennie Lomnes.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Armena Home and School Association for asking me to do this history. It has been a labor of love as I have reminisced on those happy years spent at the Thordenskjold school. The little country school house is gone forever from our country-side but will be remembered as long as there are those of us who have attended as students or have been teachers in them.

Thordenskjold School Teachers

1899 — William T. Gemmell
 1899-1900 — Miss Harriet E. Bamber
 1900-1901 — Miss Lizzie G. Shaw
 1902 — R. B. Ritchie
 1903 — Miss Lizzie G. Shaw
 1904 — Miss Edna Barber
 1905 — Mr. Inre G. Gilchrist
 1906 — Mr. Craig
 1907 — Mr. Daniel McCormick
 1908 — Miss E. Scott (Welsh)
 1909 — Miss Jorgine Hendrickson
 1910 — Miss Jorgine Hendrickson
 1911 — Mr. A. W. Bowles
 1912 — Miss Jorgine Hendrickson
 1913 — Miss Lettie Lobb
 1914-1915 — Miss Mary Anderson
 1916 — Mr. Palmer Anderson
 1917 — Miss Alma Lyseng (Hoyne)
 1918 —
 1919 — Miss Mable Waterston (Jones)
 — Miss Maud Anderson
 1920 — Miss Emma Hilland (Broen)
 1920-1921 — Miss Judith Ellingson
 1921-1922 — Miss Vera Lideen
 1922-1923 — Mrs. Grace Cox
 1924 — Miss Christine Berquist (Stolee)

1924-1925 — Mrs. Magda Hendrickson
 1926 — Miss Alma Harber
 1926-1929 — Miss Dorothy M. Deverell (Lyseng)
 1929-1930 — Miss Emma Hendrickson (Ewald)
 1930-1940 — Mr. Bennie Lomnes
 1940-1941 — Miss Dora Campbell (Borgstrom)



Almina Hoyme — teacher at Thordenskjold School. Laura Berg — teacher at Armena School.

In 1941 changes were made in the boundaries of the Thordenskjold School District. It now included the western part only of the district, the eastern part of the Ellswick School District, as well as part of the Busk School District. The Busk School building was moved three miles to the north-west of its former location and the name Thordenskjold and the number 421 were retained.

Those who served on the School Board were Robert Young, Anton Olson, Arnt Moe and Martin Hendrickson.

The first teacher was Miss Marian Johnson (1941-1942) who taught at the Busk School the previous year. Mrs. Thea Young taught from September 1942 to December 1944 followed by Miss Parker from January to June 1945. In 1945-1946 Miss Almina Hoyme was the teacher. Mrs. Margaret Hendrickson taught from September 1946 to October 1948 with the exception of May and June of 1948 when Miss Silk was there.

In October 1948 the Thordenskjold District became a part of the enlarged Armena School District. The children, approximately thirty at that time, were

now transported by bus to their new school in Armena. There was some objection to the change. Parents felt it was somewhat premature as the roads were not as yet suitable for bus service.

The playground equipment had been inadequate at the Thordenskjold School but the pupils were occupied during the intermissions with playing the usual interesting games of Pom Pom Pull Away, Steal Sticks, Pee Wee, etc. There were inter-school ball games played and track meets for which to prepare.

In the winter among other pleasures snow forts were built. At times there was a skating rink made by pupils who hauled water in cream cans in Budd's cutter.

Many interesting and exciting incidents could be related, such as some pertaining to the crowded schoolroom the night of the Christmas concert; the time the floor in front of the heater caught fire; or when a certain young man racing at a school picnic became drenched when he fell into a ditch of water, then made a quick trip home and soon rejoined the picnickers.

During the last two years the school operated, Rev. Schultze, a retired minister, came one day a week from New Sarepta by means of horse and buggy or sleigh to give piano instruction to several of the pupils at the nearby M. Hendrickson home. His interest in and patience with the children resulted in progress also in this way — in most cases. This was truly a worthwhile project.

Following the closing of the school the building was sold and used as a cattle barn. In February 1966, just after having been remodelled as a pig barn, the building was destroyed by fire from an undetermined cause.

Thus a brief history of this Thordenskjold School. The boys and girls of those days have entered a variety of useful occupations. Since then too, there have been reminders within the school family of the uncertainty and brevity of life.

Baldenstein School No. 677

submitted by Elmer and Cecelia Olson

The earliest settlers north and west of the town limits realized the need of a school for their families. John Kubbernus and Charlie Erickson were the two men most instrumental in organizing the school.

The Baldenstein School was named by John Kubbernus in 1901. He had earlier immigrated to United States from Berlin, Germany, coming to Camrose in 1900 to settle on a homestead north of Camrose. The proposed site for the school was to be located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16-47-20 W4, but, before any construction was started, the town annexed the Kubber-

BALDENSTEIN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 677

35

C.R.
PERCY CROFT
EMIL SLETTEN

J. B. ERICKSON BURGER VILLAGE	VICTOR ANDERSON J. B. ERICKSON BURGER VILLAGE	C. TRAUWWEISER EDWIN HUME E. L. FOWLER NELS LYSING CHARLOTTE SMITH	GUST ANDERSON T. G. OSTREM A. WENSEL FRED ANDERSON C. DUGGAN	MYRTE LYSING MARK KEN NYBACK HUTTERITE COLONY KEN MYRBAK A	NELS LYSING MARK HUTTERITE COLONY	THOS. HAWKIN M. NESVOLD G. NESVOLD	L. E. LOVESETH A. BARTH HUTTERITE COLONY	HUDSON BAY OLE ROSENDALH E. L. BREWER	JOSEPH MONSON NELS MONSON K. H. SEEM W. W. TRELEVEN C. OLSONBERG OLE ROSENDALH J. D. FARMS
SARA LARSEN H. BRUNDEWAS JOHN BROS. O. THOMPSON A. W. SMITHBROS	FRANK BUSK PETE MONSON BURGESS + MCKAY ED THOMPSON K. SCHROEDER A. W. SMITH FARMS	C. TRAUWWEISER EDWIN HUME ED. THOMPSON R. BRANTON	ED. THOMPSON M. + J. CONAUGHTY R. HILGARTNER	JOHN E. OLSON ALEX OLSON H. WOLFE	JOHN SVENSON R. J. BERG MRS. GREEN EARL NESVOLD	THOS. HAWKIN M. NESVOLD EARL NESVOLD	L. E. LOVESETH A. BARTH HUTTERITE COLONY	HUDSON BAY R. D. PETERSON HUTTERITE COLONY	JOHN KURSTAD R. WENNERSTROM
CHES. LANCASTER ED. THOMPSON H. C. HANSON BOB WATERSTON DON WATERSTON	CHAS. LANCASTER ED. THOMPSON H. C. HANSON BOB WATERSTON ANNA WATERSTON	CHAS. JOHNSON HUCKLEBERRY JAMES WALKER DON WATERSTON	A. JOHNSON C. G. CORNEILLE C. HENRIKSON JORGINE HENRIKSON EDWIN HONG T. FARGOLSON R. FRANKSON R. BRANTON	JOHN E. OLSON N80 ALEX OLSON N80 TERRY WOLFE N80 MYRTE LYSING S80 JOHN HANSON S80 C. DUGGAN S80	C.P.R. R. J. BERG MRS. GREEN AUG. ROMAN	JOHN M. ANDERSON J. D. PETERSON R. J. BERG M. GREEN A. MCKENZIE A. ROMAN	COL. DENTON G. MATIASON CARL WILNER R. D. PETERSON W. J. CEMPLE MRS. M. HARRISON R. SCHROEDER	L. E. LOVESETH IDA GROSETH R. BROEN	MYRTE OLWAIL F. MOHLER
H. JASMAN A. E. JASMAN R. HILGARTNER	C.P.R. ST. NUGENT R. L. RUSHSTON LLOYD RUDD	AUG. HUNGKEIT W. W. SHAW H. KUBBERNUS ART LYSING L. WENIG	CARL J. KEIT JOHN ANSTED H. KUBBERNUS R. FRANKSON R. BRANTON	MYRTE LYSING JOHN HANSON C. DUGGAN	MYRTE LYSING JOHN HANSON C. DUGGAN	AMEL NORDSTROM R. SCHROEDER C. BAKKEN MURRAY BOHN A CARL DAY A	L. E. LOVESETH J. D. PETERSON G. TEDFORD N. B. ANTON ZELSER	L. E. LOVESETH IDA GROSETH C. BROEN	JOHN SPOKLI BOSMANS LTD
CHRIS RUTH C. HILGARTNER	DAN DESCH NOAH W. GOULD W. MITTLESTADT REYNOLDS ADOLPH TOLLEFSON	P. J. LEWIS S. J. MARTIN W. J. GARDNER HURLBURT FARMS	E. HEND + MUNRO P. J. PEDLEY STOVER BROS. DARYL OLSON	J. D. PATTERSON STOVER BROS. MRS. C. BAKKEN AUG. ROMAN BYRON OLSON DARYL OLSON	J. D. PATTERSON STOVER BROS. MRS. C. BAKKEN AUG. ROMAN				
G. SCHMITKE D. DAHIES	W. MITTLESTADT S80 J. A. HALGREN S80 HARVEY MILLER	P. J. LEWIS S. J. MARTIN W. J. GARDNER HURLBURT FARMS	E. HEND + MUNRO P. J. PEDLEY STOVER BROS. DARYL OLSON	NELS MONSON ELMER + ALEX OLSON ELMER S. OLSON DARYL OLSON	L. E. LOVESETH ERNEST IHRIG BURGESS + MCKAY ELMER + ALEX OLSON ELMER S. OLSON DARYL OLSON				

A ACREAGE

nus and Erickson land and they became ratepayers in the town school system.

About the year 1908, the school boundaries were redefined and a site two miles north of the original location was chosen. The school was built on a two-acre plot on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21-47-20- W4, owned by John Olson. One acre was sold and one acre was donated by John Olson, and the school building started in 1910; the work being contracted to Cornelius Grue and his assistant Nels Prestlein.

The Baldenstein School served the community in many ways. In the early years it was the center for political gatherings, religious services, as well as the Annual School Board meetings. Old-fashioned Box Socials were held occasionally to raise money for extra school supplies. During World War I the pupils were active in Red Cross work.

School attendance was also more haphazard years ago. The boys were expected to help their parents with the farm work in the spring and fall. Often they would miss school for three weeks or more at a time, so it was not uncommon for these boys, up to eighteen or nineteen years of age, to go to school during the winter months to upgrade their learning.

Sports equipment allotted to the school consisted



Construction of Baldenstein School. Mrs. Olson, Mr. Olson, Grace, Dorothy, Marguerite.



Baldenstein School, 1916. Back Row, Left to Right: Alma Lyseng (teacher), Emma Roth, Lily Strid, Minnie Roth, Signe Strid, Ida Mittlestadt, Edith Walker, Tofield Mittlestadt, Charlie Strid, George Roth. Middle Row: Annie Strid, Marguerite Olson, Judith Olson. Sitting, Left to Right: Rudolph Mittlestadt, Adolph Roth, Adolph Mittlestadt, Kenneth Lyseng, Alex Olson, Hallsten Hallgren.



Baldenstein School, 1915. Back Row, Left to Right: Hilding Hallgren, Charlie Strid, Alex Olson, Kenneth Lyseng, Signe Strid, Grace Cameron (teacher), Lily Strid, Edith Walker. Front Row, Left to Right: Halsten Hallgren, Marguerite Olson, Annie Strid, Judith Olson, Lena Strid.

of only a football or basketball. Recreational activities were mostly created by the pupils' own ingenuity. As a result, games were invented. I recall very vividly one such event which occurred while I was attending school.

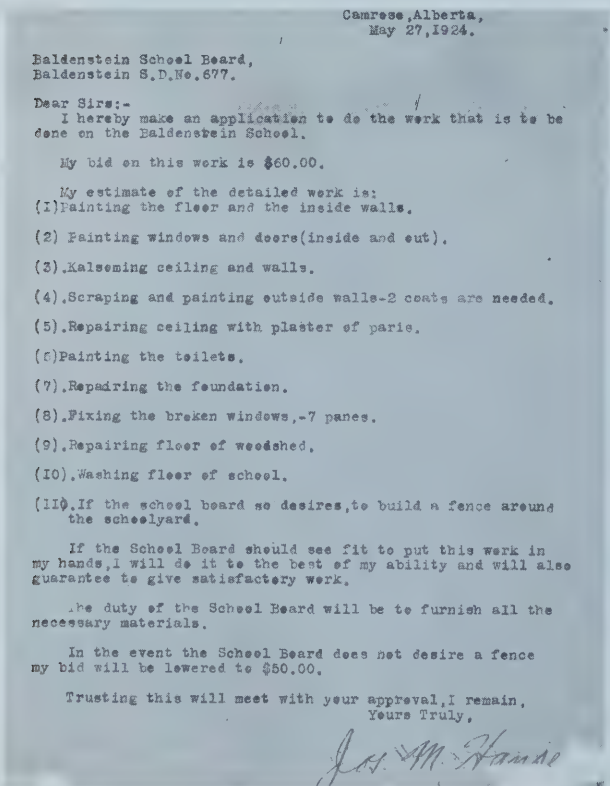
Our minds had been stimulated by leaflets, left at the school during World War I, telling us how well our Canadian soldiers could fight and endure. Not to be outdone, we would spend our recesses and noon-

times digging elaborate trenches and bunkers out of the snowbanks. We chose sides and would fight simulated battles with snowballs prepared the previous day. Soon after, we built a stronger fort with sides and a pitched roof made up of three and four-inch diameter poplars. Then we decided to fight a "really outstanding battle!" Then, "ACTION!"

One of the boys on the attacking side found an old glass bottle and decided it would be a dandy bomb. So he yelled, "Look out, here comes a bomb" and let it fly!! We heard a loud scream and out came this boy, bleeding profusely from a cut on his head. We took our victim to the school for help. The teacher nearly fainted, but had the presence of mind to put her hanky over the wound on his head and his hat on top of that, and delegated me to escort him to his home a mile away. Yes, the battles of Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge were fought many times on our school grounds.

The school was completely destroyed by fire, of unknown origin, in December, 1929. It was most unfortunate to happen just when all was in readiness for the annual Christmas Concert. In spite of all the costumes and other possessions being ruined, the children presented an enjoyable program at the home of John Olson. The remainder of the school term was taught at the home of the Olson-Nisi Brothers; Marguerite Olson was the teacher.

During the summer of 1930, a new school was built at the original location by Charlie Burrows Construction.



New Baldenstein School, 1930.

The Christmas Concerts and the June Picnics were always largely attended by parents and friends. Cold weather and bad roads were never an excuse for not coming that special night of the children's Christmas programs. The small school barn had only room for six horses so in wintry weather, the other teams were blanketed and tied to trees and fed hay or green



Temporary school, 1930. Back Row: Marguerite Olson, Raymond Olson, Floreen Carlson, Millard Nesvold, Francis Poeckens, Hilda Crofts, Lucy Poeckens. Middle Row: Bernice Crofts, Helen Nesvold, Earl Nesvold, Raymond Carlson, Albin Crofts, Elizabeth Poeckens. Front Row: Dorothy Olson, Gordon Crofts, Norma Lyseng, Grace Olson.



Baldenstein School Ball Team, 1942. Back Row, Left to Right: Elmer Schielke, Ralph Nordstrom, Fred Axelson. Middle Row: Donald Waterston, Donna Olson, Irene Sletton, Florence Miller, Virgil Kubbernus. Bottom Centre: Vera Poeckens.



Baldenstein School, 1933. Marguerite Olson (teacher), Hilda Crofts, Bernice Crofts, Helen Nesvold, Stanley Erickson, Earl Nesvold, Grace Olson, Almira Rosendahl, Dorothy Olson, Wilbert Erickson, Smith, Chester Erickson, Albin Crofts, Ernest Erickson, Don Crofts, June Swedberg, Raymond Erickson, Norma Lyseng, Gordon Crofts, Joyce and Miller.



Baldenstein pupils, 1945-1946. Back Row, Left to Right: Lorna Kubbernus, Gwendolyn Olson, Elsie Schroeder, Harold Nordstrom, Frieda Schroeder, Wilbert Lyseng, Leon Kubbernus. Center Row: Grace Axelson, Tina Schroeder, Byron Olson, Allan Nordstrom, Lyndon Olson. Front Row: Rupert Wenig, Margaret Schroeder, Florence Schroeder, Sonja Olson, Lorene Mielke, Gordon Axelson.

feed bundles. After the program, the children were given generous sized bags of candy and fruit and all the adults present were treated with apples and oranges.

The last day of school in June, the whole neighborhood enjoyed a picnic. Parents and children alike all took part in games, contests, and races. There was always an abundance of good food, supplied by the ladies, and plenty of ice cream for everyone.

Throughout the school year other social gatherings were occasionally held. In 1942, the ladies of the District organized a Red Cross group and helped the

war effort by sewing and knitting articles. This group was later renamed the Baldenstein Welfare Workers and continued for many years giving donations to many causes with money raised through programs, plays, and Pie and Box Socials.

During the years that Baldenstein continued as a school, most of the ratepayers had, at one time or another, served on the School Board. John Olson was the Secretary-Treasurer for twenty-five years. The last School Board consisted of Morris Nesvold, Robert Waterston, and Elmer Olson and they worked together with Inspector Claude Robinson and District Representative John Walker. In 1952, centralization

of the district schools took place and children went by bus to the new Sifton School in Camrose.

The Baldenstein School building was sold to Ness's Dairy and used as a residence by Gordon and Frieda Ness. Frieda was, at one time, a pupil in this school.

An era had ended and with it we feel some sadness but mostly we remember with fondness the happy memories.

Bring Back My School Days To Me
When beautiful school days are over

And grown men and women are we,
Tho' gone, we will think of them ever —
O, bring back my school days to me.

We long for our playmates of childhood
Who played with us day after day,
And little we dreamt how we loved them
Until they had gone far away.

O, beautiful, beautiful school days —
O, could your sweet mem'ry remain,
Thro' all of our pleasures and sorrows,
And bring back our school days again!

Teachers At The Baldenstein School No. 677 Researched by Elmer Olson

Year	Name	Married Name
1911-1912	Bessie McLeod	
1912-1913	Jorgine Hendrickson	
1913-1914	Martha Hanson	Mrs. Harry Jensen
1914-	Nellie Jones	
1915	Grace Cameron	
1915-1916	Laura La Liberti	
1916-1917	Alma Lyseng	Mrs. Ed. Hoyme
1917-1918	Anne Kennedy	Mrs. Robert Hume
1918-	Flu Epidemic	
1919	Edith Butler	Mrs. Noah Solberg
1919-	Mabel Franson	Mrs. Milton Monson
1920	Elizabeth Olson	Mrs. Ludvig Silver
1920-1921	Harry Evans	
1921-	Edith McNary	Mrs. Elmer McNary
1922	Nellie Sweet	Mrs. Roderick Lewis
1922-1923	Alice Ausenhus	Mrs. Cy Ness
1923-1925	Joseph Hanson	
1925-1926	Dorothy Abbott	
1926-1928	Ed. Nepstad	
1928-1929	Irene Rusli	Mrs. Palmer Brekke
1929-1934	Marguerite Olson	Mrs. Magnus Sigurdson
1934-1936	Nina Bergum	Mrs. Percy Bergquist
1936-1937	Bernice Osness	Mrs. Fred Barber
1937-1940	Harry Lomnes	
1940-1941	Irene Mosand	Mrs. Otto Koentopp
1941-1942	Doris Cassady	Mrs. Donald Scott
1942-1943	Elaine Monson	Mrs. Art Niven
1943-1944	Gladys Grundberg	Mrs. Art Davidson
1944-1945	Lorraine Grundberg	Mrs. Carl Blumer
1945-1946	Thelma Heiland	Mrs. Elwood Flemming
1946-1947	Ruth Ramstad	Mrs. Everett Grue
1947-1948	Thelma Larson	Mrs. Art Ries
1948-1949	Irene Nelson	Mrs. Martin Blumhagen
1949-1950	Florence Duggan	
1950-1951	Carl Nelson	
1951-1952	Myrtle Midbo	Mrs. George Hooper

Memories Of Baldenstein School District #677

by Edith (Butler) Solberg

I was a very young teacher, just out of Normal School on February 1, 1919 when I took over duties at the Baldenstein School.

Mr. John Olson met me in Camrose, tucked me snugly in the sleigh and took me to his home. Here I was warmly welcomed by Mrs. Olson and met the family. These were some of my prospective students. I lived here until Christmas of that year. I must say that I have very warm thoughts of my time spent in this home.

I believe Mr. Olson, Mr. Fowler and Mr. Lyseng were the members of the school board at this time. Among my pupils were members of the families of the Olson's, Roth's, Lyseng's, Jasmin's, Mittlestad's and I am very sorry if I missed any.

I will never forget my first morning at school. I was panic stricken. I don't think any of the pupils realized this. I called them to order and asked them to repeat The Lord's Prayer with me while I gained control of myself. Incidentally this started the pattern of school openings for the future. I must say that I enjoyed all the children here. They were all co-operative and I believe they learned a lot in that year.

Another part of this time that I will never forget was the surprise birthday party held for me at the Olson home. The children and families presented me with a beautiful ring with three pearls set across the top. I still have this and treasure it greatly.

I would like to mention another surprise that I had. My sister was visiting me and when we came home one night we found a stuffed dummy man in our bed. Elmer Olson will remember all about this.

My year at Baldenstein closed with a Christmas program. It was my first effort in this direction. We all enjoyed it and I remember being warmly congratulated on our program.

The school stood on a corner of land cut off by the railway track. I worried about the children going on the track. One time someone put something on the track. This was reported to me by the section men. I was not as interested in finding who did it as making sure it didn't happen again. After carefully explaining the problems this might cause, it was agreed by all that it wouldn't happen again and it never did.

"Memories"

by Marguerite (Olson) Sigurdson

It is a pleasure to write about my teaching experiences at the Baldenstein School, from 1929 to 1934, as all of my elementary school years were spent there. Mr. Joe Hanson was my teacher in Grade nine.

After completing grades ten and eleven at the Camrose High School and grade twelve at the Camrose Lutheran College, I attended the Camrose Normal School graduating in June 1929. My application to teach at Baldenstein was accepted. In September 1929 my work of teaching began, instructing boys and girls with whom I had grown up and also including my brother Raymond in Grade nine, and two younger sisters, Dorothy in Grade two and Grace in Grade one.

This being a country school all the pupils had to be in class from nine A.M. until three-thirty or four o'clock P.M. It must have been a long day for the younger ones, some of whom were only five years old. Fortunately they never made any fuss about it because home was too far away to leave without their older brothers or sisters.

As December approached, the children were eagerly looking forward to our first Christmas Concert. All the final preparations were made for the program of songs, plays and recitations, including also the tree and the beautiful decorations. What a shock it was to all of us to awaken one cold morning to learn that we had no school! During the night it had burned, being completely destroyed by fire of unknown origin. We lost everything including my school records. Arrangements were hurriedly made to present the Christmas program at the home of my parents, the John Olsons. Luckily the apples and candy were still at home so all received their usual Christmas treats.

Early in the New Year my father who was the Secretary-Treasurer, called a meeting of the School Board. The members were: Mr. Edwin Hong, Mr. L. E. Loveseth, and Mr. G. Schmitke. They quickly made arrangements to continue school by securing the use of the house north of the railroad. The Olson Brothers, recently from Norway, (who later changed their name to Nisi) and who had recently moved into the house, agreed to rent the front room for our use. It was really crowded but somehow we managed to make room for our belongings. My sincere compliments to Torstien and Leif Nisi for their patience with us during those six months. Most of the whole downstairs must have been used often to make room for coats, boots and lunch pails.

It was a special occasion to have a visit by the School Inspector. However I didn't mind giving up my desk to him for I had deep respect for that kind man, none other than Mr. John Russell.

A new school was soon under construction with Charlie Burrows as Contractor. By September 1930, we were able to move into the new building. During the next four years there was quite an increase in student enrollment due to new families moving into

the district. As I reflect back to those years I often wonder how one teacher could cover the "Course of Studies" given by the Department of Education, and yet find time for Music, Physical Education and sports.

There are so many recollections that come to mind that I cannot possibly tell them all. One example I will give you because it had such a nice ending. As all our books had been destroyed by the fire I wrote to the Department of Education for all the free pamphlets available. These were educational and the pupils really made good use of them. One day we were studying the logging and the lumber industry of B.C. and I explained that these companies had found a valuable use for their greatest by-product, sawdust. This booklet related how sawdust was used for furnaces to heat buildings, and also for cookstoves. This was a new revelation to me so when the children told their parents about it I soon had visitors after school questioning me about the nonsense being taught their children. It wasn't a very big surprise to get such feed-back so in answer I handed them copies of the article to read when they returned home. They were indeed much fascinated. (When Rev. and Mrs. Solheim first moved to Vancouver they used sawdust as heating material in both furnace and cookstove, about 1942. I know. I visited them in the forties. D.M.L.)

Music festivals were held in Camrose for several years and many from our school won prizes. We were all so proud when June Swedberg and others won for their solos. Our children did so much singing even though we had no piano or other musical instrument.

As a teacher in a rural setting I felt we had more freedom to try out new plans and to make promotions of some pupils that could easily cover two years work in one year. For instance Norma Lyseng and Grace Olson had no trouble going into grade three the second term. We were proud of our honor students Berna Rosendahl. A comment on her governmental exam was "a wonderfully talented student."

Much can be said in favor of the good old country schools where we were like one big family working for the good of all the classes. What a wonderful fine group of children we had in this school! They always worked so well together that there was never any concern about discipline. They all did their best and that is all any teacher could wish. I enjoyed my work very much and for me the challenge of teaching gave me great satisfaction. Those five years in Baldenstein School will always be a cherished memory.

My Year In the Baldenstein District

Thelma (Heiland) Flemming

In 1945 I arrived at Baldenstein to teach Grades I

to VIII with twenty pupils. It was my first school and I wasn't three years older than my oldest students. When I think of all the problems I could have had with discipline from these pupils, I really admire them for putting up with me. They caused me many a red face but little else.

We had many exciting times at school including the ball games, wiener roasts, and the year-end picnic. The Christmas concert was on a cold, cold night and some cars were left running during the entire program.

My students included the five Schroeder sisters with Margaret in Grade I and Freida in Grade VIII. The school yard was home to many snakes and fortunately I wasn't afraid of them. However, Virgil Kubbernus was and everyone was aware of the fact and they always managed to annoy him with the snakes.

Inspector Claude Robinson visited us and the children behaved very well. I remember him helping me fix blinds and a few other things. There were no paid maintenance workers then and I didn't know how to fix such things.

while in the district, I lived with the Alex Olson family. Gwen and Sonja walked to school with me. Bradley called me "T-T" and Marvin enjoyed coming upstairs to my big room. Many enjoyable times were had while living there and enjoying Mrs. Olson's good cooking for \$30.00 a month. On cold winter evenings we played many games with Alex's favorite being dominoes. The dominoes were kept in a matchbox up in the dish cupboard.

Many times I hitch-hiked to my home east of Round Hill, walking many miles. After one year I left and taught three years in Kingman. As was the fate of most teachers, I married a local farmer; Elwood Flemming and I live in the Kingman district. We have a family of four daughters, two sons, and five grandchildren.

"The Path Across the Hill"

recollection by Bernice Erickson and Cecelia Olson

Many of the early schools lacked any musical instrument such as an organ or piano, Baldenstein was one of them.

There were many musically talented children attending Baldenstein so in the winter of 1935 several of the district young people decided to present a play to try to earn enough money to buy a piano for the school.

Nina Bergum, the teacher, very generously took part and helped choose the three act play "The Path Across the Hill" a light comedy love story.



Baldenstein teacher, Nina Bergum, 1934-1936.

Elmer Olson played the leading role of "Grandpa Crawford".

Nina Bergum in the supporting role of his granddaughter "Ruth Conrad".

Earl Nesvold was her brother "Walter Conrad".

Gilbert Nesvold as "Robert Post" was Ruth's admirer.

Cecelia Olson as "Grandma Davies" had a romantic eye for Grandpa Crawford, always bringing treats of cookies to him.

Esther Magneson as "Little Lady" was a granddaughter of Grandma Davies and being curious about her grandma's interest in Grandpa Crawford hid under the table to listen to the old folks, but was discovered when she accidentally sneezed.

Millard Nesvold played "John Henry Jones" the negro handiman and Bernice Crofts as "Zuzu" the negro cook, were servants in Grandpa Crawford's home.

Lillian Ruth was a stylish neighbor lady, "Flo Gray".

Edwin Schmitke was gentleman "Jimmy Reed."

Mrs. Ann Crofts was the genial prompter.

They met once a week and later twice a week to practice in the neighborhood homes. Along with learning their lines by heart it was also lots of fun and gave everyone an outlet for social visits, lunch was always included. Everyone had to drive horses and sleighs and often battled drifted roads. Edwin Schmitke made the trips in good time with his light cutter and driving horse. The Elmer Olsons used a cutter and team for travelling. Their little four year old girl Donna Marie always came with them and never made any fuss about late hours of long practices. They recall one very frustrating episode when they were on their way to a practice session. The road



Play at Baldenstein.

south of the railroad was extremely drifted so Elmer drove into the field nearby. The horses became so stuck in the deep snow they couldn't take another step. He tramped down the hard snow ahead of the horses, then unhitched them to pull the cutter backwards. Needless to say after this experience they went straight home!

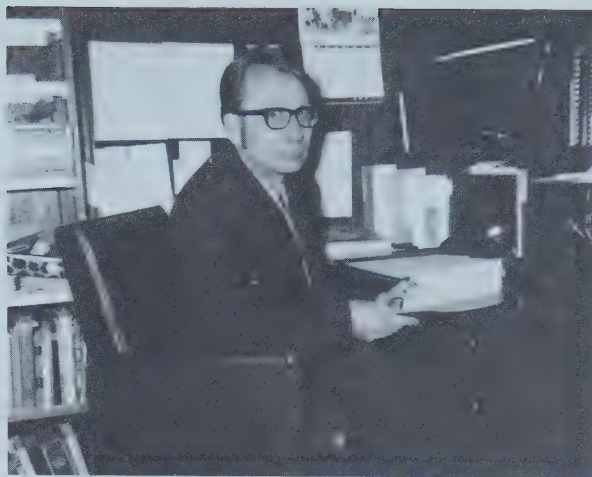
The day of the play, school was dismissed early so the men could build the stage and set up planks for seating. The evening of March 19, 1935 the play was presented to a capacity audience and afterwards climaxed with a successful Box Social.

The group was delighted when they were invited to present the play at the Dinant Hall, the East Bittern Lake School, and the Camrose U.F.A. Hall. Enough money was earned to buy a lovely second-hand oak piano at the price of \$400.00 for the Baldenstein School. At the close of this school the piano was moved to the new Sifton School in Camrose and has been in use there for many years.

My Reflections of School Days by Wilbert Erickson

How did the name originate? Was it some Einstein who got scalped in some wild west event so "Baldenstein" seemed to sound appropriate? I've never inquired until now! I hear or say the name and my memory throws a country school house at me.

Why hasn't fifty years erased those memories? It is as though yesterday five of us from one family walked the quarter mile or so toward the school, I can see it now gradually looming up before me like an abominable monster; but if my companions could face it I supposed that I might as well be devoured with them. Sure, I had seen and been to a school before but my little brain was a bit delusional by the prospects I had that having moved a distance of fifty miles we would by good fortune be far removed from an institution of learning!



Wilbert Erickson, August, 1975.

I feel positive that on arrival at the school my sister (who was then completing her grade nine) and I were seated at a table at the front right of the class room and like some celebrities exposed to the glances of the amused audience in the desks. Being seated at the table simply meant that all desks were occupied. That, as I remember did not disturb me. I've never felt uncomfortable at a table. The exception was that the four legged beast was burdened with goodies that really held no great appeal for me! At a glance I recognized study and homework. Study and homework and I were not chums! Exams were a threat and too often a near failure could be predicted. Anyway my struggling to succeed at fifty percent — more or less — was not a lost cause but at the time my dream was for freedom from it all. Like a bird in a cage my gaze into space should have been indication enough to let me go free. But then, I wasn't ready to fly. My interpretation of, "Give me Liberty or give me Death" was in the wildest sense and would have been the death of me.

The forces of "Legal Technique" were in control those days. One must stay in the institution of learning until the age of fifteen. That was a long term of hard labour for one whose faculty of learning declined from its responsibility so easily. Government compelled me to stay with it. A little piece of learning that I did latch onto was that government was the people. I was sure I was part of that company yet not consenting to forced school. Mind you, I didn't know what majority meant!

This present day fad of forced growing and forced feeding, after all is not a recent discovery. Seriously, forced schooling is a proper principle for government to implement and ranks higher in value that collecting taxes and giving grants to some nut to study the sex life of a mosquito.

In the following page the pictures will indicate that what used to be a learning compound is now invisibly patched into the adjacent farm land. No trace now of school barn, nor the old fashioned outdoor cubicle that served as the sewer system. There appears to be evidence, if I judge rightly, of the entrance approach in the lower left of the second picture.

I'm impressed with the assumption that the approach is there and am motivated to recall how that day after we who were legally pledged to that concentration camp — well we were supposed to concentrate — passed to and fro over what I said I thought was the approach entrance and no doubt harbouring all sorts of mixed feeling yet borne with dignity on “shanks pony”, I think we used to call it, or for others on horses, lean, fat, swayback, not to forget the sleighs, carts, and democrats that operated on fourlegged plugs. My mind vividly pictures that bald-faced steed, hitched to a chariot and whether to or from school trotted with such gusto that those wheels revved like airplane propellers.

Like animals we, of course, shed or donned our coats of skin and fur or whatever according to the seasons. I've never figured out where the styles of garb hailed from but could well have been Mars. Who but a Martian would invent those obscene fashionable coveralls with side vents that I wore. Why were those garments called coveralls when — at least in the summer time — certain parts of the diaphragm would be left dangerously conspicuous. Maybe those vents were there for numerous reasons. For one thing that Saturday night bath didn't last a week. Air circulation was most beneficial.

I wonder what happened to the school's desk brass bell? It could put its toll on our free time far too quickly. But, respond we must and head for the classroom. That brass ding-dong was a hideous device except the time that a certain teacher took time immediately following lunch hour to read portions each day from the book entitled “My Dog Crusoe”. My daughters gave me a copy as a gift and I thoroughly enjoyed its contents again.

The theory of forcing a child to make achievements is not successful psychology, neither is total self-expression. I remember that the strokes of the yardstick across my back end made neither martyr or intellect out of me. The solution to that mathematical problem was a complete blurr and the swats on the rear never brought it into focus!

This all happened on the day a younger brother started school (I think he mentioned it was his first day.) What an horrendous initiation for him, but then, at my expense, it was probably what he needed to observe so as to make him understand that school

just wasn't fun, games and tricks! Ask him how impressed he was! Also being the little devil he was, get the story of his school days and discover that really the object lesson was just — at my expense! Let me hasten to say that our failure to be model students was not a total disaster for we did eventually earn our ordination certificates as ministers. But, the credit goes to the work of redeeming grace that possessed us to accept a goal of that nature. Previously, for me, there was schooling in preparation for the secular business world.

The saying, “Something good is going to happen to you” can be a reality, as I have just pointed out. The statement should never be doubted but regretfully one can't help questioning it. Surely my teacher who administered the wallops in the above mentioned episode must have dismissed all academic hope for me, and closed most days in tearful exasperation! But not all avenues of possible success was closed to me. One teacher (I don't remember which one) very graciously encouraged me to memorize the piece of poetry — “Abu Ben Adam”, and recite it at a festival. I received top award and came out smiling. I believe the fact is I had no competitors. But, so what, I've held my chin up a little higher ever since.

There was a sense of achievement for me to become the fire engineer at the school. After all, warmth was of prime importance on those cold frosty winter days. Blue cold could creep into that class room during the night. Dry kindling was ready first thing in the morning to place on those hot embers that managed to survive the night. It wasn't a long wait to see that furnaces's pot belly get as red as any highly inflamed skin rash, and the fire box hot enough to melt Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, leaving no choice for Jack Frost to linger around any longer. It is regrettable that there was no engineering certificate or award signed by Aberhart in those days.

I'm sure everyone anticipated signs of springtime. The solar heat system is second to none. Recess was the best time of the school day and the noon lunch hour even better. I was always ready to panic from that educational enclosure and dash for the outdoors as if someone had yelled fire.

Well do I remember the five-pound Rogers Golden syrup pails we used as lunch buckets. Those tins were loaded to the top with home-made bread slices and very, very, often spread with only syrup. A morsel that was not particularly stimulating to the taste buds nor did it have trade value. As the saying goes, “beggars can't be choosers,” so it was, I usually ate all that was provided for me and maybe it was a tear or two from a mother's eye that gave those sandwiches that unforgettable sweetness.

Apples did not frequent the home where I was raised. Those were the Depression years, however we never went hungry. None the less the sight of partially eaten apple being thrown away is as vivid in my mind today as though happening yesterday. I watched it land in the field adjacent to the school yard. I presume that it was only because of self-pride that I did not dash out to retrieve it, but, on the other hand I reckon we weren't to be caught out of bounds.

Perhaps food was wasted in various way. Incredible might describe how ravenously the contents of lunch buckets disappeared. The lessons on how to chew our food well as printed in the hygiene book weren't adhered to properly. Time was a premium in view of the old ball game. I would not have complained if there had been a two hour lunch hour!

I hesitate to mention it but I too often had that inner feeling of reluctance to dash for the ball diamond. I have few recollections where I was selected to be a captain. That was exciting to either toss or catch the bat, then to test as to whose hand failed to fit at the end of it. Then there was the choosing of teams. I know the feeling of rejection one gets when being the last one chosen. Further more the feeling of utter exclusion when assigned to be as far out as possible in the field where the only fly would be the one in my pants or else those buzzing insects of creation. O well, I'm sure I had the pleasure of base positions, too!

I must mention another incident. No — maybe I shouldn't. Yes — perhaps I will. Is it senseless and cruel to revive the episode after a span of about forty-eight years? Hopefully no one but myself remembers anything about it. The ability to forget is good in certain aspects.

The school bell rang and a classmate and I made our way to the school house door. As we approached, and feeling his wild oats — I guess — he let out with some cursing and swearing that would make a reprobate blush. My pal was raving on, and I'm sorry to admit it, but I was laughing. We stepped into the doorway and at the same instance came face to face . . . with — guess who? Chagrined and silent we had no way of escape. "It stopped short never to go again" or say again or laugh at again would be a sensible course for anyone to follow, but it is easy to ignore lessons. Had the teacher said nothing to us I still would have known my guilt but she did and I hold great admiration for her, because she without hesitation set forth to reprimand us. Unfortunately she was "stopped short" when that witty friend of mine falsely cleared himself and me by explaining that he was just telling Wilbert what he had heard a neighbour say when fixing the binder. As far as I

recall the whole issue went to the morgue. Now, should I have resurrected it?

I often wonder if my school teachers groan within themselves when they think of me! Well, cheer up I groan within when I think of myself. Your efforts were not all in vain. I learned a practical lesson on sweeping floors and I think I remember who the teacher was who so tactfully demonstrated for me as to the proper method of handling the broom. I could raise more dust with a broom than the winds did in southern Saskatchewan. I was moving the dust and floor compound from the floor to the ceiling. Out of the corner of my eye I could tell that the school mistress was extremely perturbed. She no doubt already had had a strenuous day looking after somebody else's kids. I've been continually embarrassed that I was so stupid as to not sense how foolishly I was working that broom into a jitter bug frenzy. Very diplomatically she asked for the broom and instructively did a perfect object lesson.

Where there is a school there should be a home. Birds have homes and what's more cozy then the hollow fence post down beside the railway tracks? I don't think any year went by but that an investigation was made to see if nest and eggs would be hidden inside. I looked again on one of my return visits and then beyond to view what once was my home.

The evergreen tree that towered above the poplars has a little story to tell. It was a serious matter to dare



That evergreen tree.

cross the boundary fence into the neighbour's property. What if I were apprehended and put in jail for trespassing! Why would that be necessary? Wasn't I already doing time in school? Be that as it may and fearing lest a twig might crack and some one would hear me I carefully stalked through the brush and trees to creep under the big sprawling branches of that mysterious fir tree, wondering in amazement as to how it decided to take up residence there. Climbing to the top I could look out over the poplars to a world that didn't know where I was. Teachers I'm sure would be relieved if I had hung there whether by

the neck or by the tail. Dear, dear teachers how they endured just for my sake. It must have been agonizing for them trying to drill learning into my cranium. That last day of school for me was, I suppose, dying to a drab routine of study pressures and coming alive to a great new world of adventure, but — ah — me — not without being continually processed through learning.

Baldenstein — do I laugh or cry? After all is said and done I've returned time and time again to view the lonely site and feel emotional enough that I could easily be persuaded to remove my shoes. More than that, if given the opportunity, I would plant a kiss of appreciation upon the cheek (or lips) of my teachers.

The Lyseng School

by Esther Wenig

Lyseng S.D. #854 was the second school to be built in the Armena, Camrose North area.

An organizational meeting was held at the home of Albert Lyseng on May 23, 1903. The ten district members present voted unanimously for the establishment of a school. Erick K. Lyseng was elected chairman and O. T. Wilson, secretary.

A site for the school was chosen on the N.W. corner of the S.W. ¼ of Section 4, Township 48, Range 20, West of the fourth meridian. At that time the land still belonged to the North West Territories. Three men had applied for homestead rights on this quarter, namely, G. Thompson, Conrad Weber and Andrew Johnson but these applications were all cancelled. Andrew Johnson did build a small house and a log barn and drill a well, all of which were abandoned.

Albert Lyseng then applied and received title to the land, patented June 26, 1906. It was later sold to Carl E. and Edwin O. Lyseng and more recently to Joe Wenig.

On March 24, 1904 it was decided to build a school house eighteen feet by twenty-six feet. Bylaw #1 of those minutes read "Whereas it is necessary and desirable that the sum of Five Hundred Dollars should be borrowed on the security of Lyseng S.D. #854 of the North West Territories, for the purpose of building and furnishing a school house, repayable to the bearer in five equal consecutive annual payments with interest at not more than eight per cent per annum."

Lumber for the school amounted to \$181.35. Ten double desks, one teacher's desk, one numeral frame, four yards of slated cloth for a blackboard, maps and a dictionary were among the supplies purchased.

Annie Totten signed the first teacher's contract on

September 1, 1904. She was paid fifty dollars a month and taught for five months. Mr. Morrison taught for six months beginning in September, 1905. Mr. Alexander MacLeod was the next teacher, followed by Mr. Duncan Martin in 1909, teaching one hundred and five days.

By 1910 a barn fourteen by sixteen was added to the school yard. Carl E. Lyseng was now chairman with Mr. Wilson secretary-treasurer. Several men in the district served on the Board from time to time with Emil Lyseng carrying on as chairman for several years before the school closed.

Other teachers who taught at Lyseng School were Miss B. Sperrell and Miss J. Tucker 1912, Miss N. M. Carlson 1913, Miss Jean Ramsay, Miss Anne Kennedy, Miss M. McIlroy, Miss H. N. Bergh, Miss Mable Moore, Miss Petra Sater, Miss Ida Skattebo, Mr. Fred Albrecht, Miss Estella Urquhart, Miss Olianna Hendrickson, Miss Margaret Heiner, Miss Mabel Larson, Miss Inez Thronson, Miss Irene Horte, Miss Sheila Ruslie, Miss Velma Jornlin. Miss Laverne Anderson, a former pupil, taught the last three years the school remained open.

Many of the teachers received their training at Camrose Normal School which is now known as Rosehaven, a hospital for Seniors.

Normalities who had a grade twelve diploma were given a Class A Teacher's Certificate after at-



Valentine Party at Lyseng School. Left to Right: Paul Eriksson, Mrs. Evers, Irene Horte (teacher), Ruth Eriksson, Mrs. Carl Anderson, Marie Anderson, Cardiff.

An unofficial map of area served by Lyseng school # 854.
 Rg 20-W-4 & M.

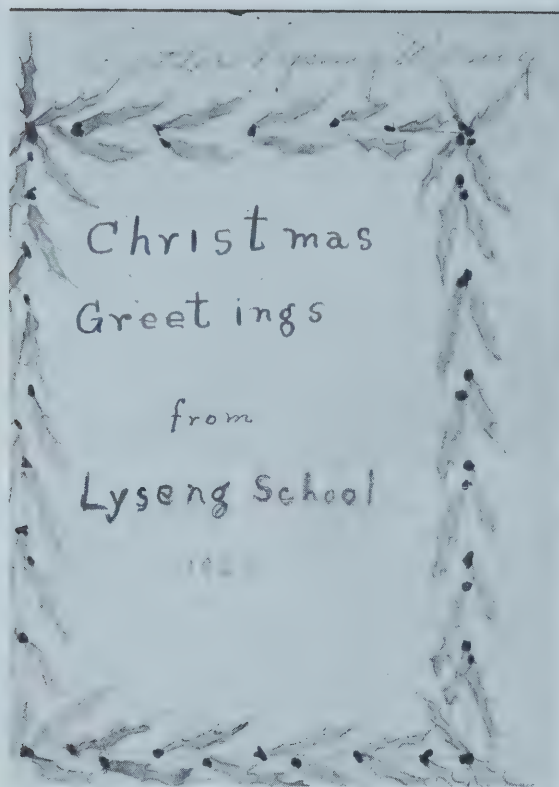
Abel Lyseng Albert Stollery	Ernest Lyseng Estate	William Skaret Marville Skaret Dolores Skaret	Thore Gruue Nels Gruue Rawleigh Betty Rushfeldt	Carl Anderson Carl Anderson Philip Anderson Hanna Evers Philip Anderson Sven Johnson Fridtjof (Cohgregation) Theo Carlsson Oy F. Carlsson	Carl Carl Grace Anderson Anderson Anderson	John Ludwig Anderson Lewis Evers James Severson Hans Louise Palm Bengt Anderson Clint Macdhee John & Joe Mahar Hutterian Brethren	Frank Nelson Don Tulkenberg Hutterian Brethren
Neille Lyseng Albert Stollery	William Arthur Skaret Marville Skaret	Erick Lyseng Martin Lyseng Malcolm Lyseng	Thore Gruue Theo Thronson Dion Davidson Chester Thronson Henry Sylvia Giesbrecht	Carl Anderson Philip Anderson Hanna Evers Philip Anderson Sven Johnson Fridtjof (Cohgregation) Theo Carlsson Oy F. Carlsson	Carl Carl Grace Anderson Anderson Anderson	Bengt Anderson Clint Macdhee John & Joe Mahar Hutterian Brethren	Frank Nelson Don Tulkenberg Hutterian Brethren
Peter Nelson James Shold Marville Skaret Dolores Skaret	Iverson Gunderson Arthur Skaret Marville Skaret Dolores Skaret	Haugstol Imper O. L. Lyseng Lars Tuttle Chester Olson Julius Olson Don Saltwid Arnold Malone	Albert Lyseng Emil Lyseng Arthur Margaret Lyseng Albert Lyseng Emil Lyseng W. Albert Sigrun Lyseng	Carl Anderson Philip Anderson Hanna Evers Philip Anderson Sven Johnson Fridtjof (Cohgregation) Theo Carlsson Oy F. Carlsson	Carl Carl Grace Anderson Anderson Anderson	John Ludwig Anderson Lewis Evers James Severson Hans Louise Palm Bengt Anderson Clint Macdhee John & Joe Mahar Hutterian Brethren	Frank Nelson Don Tulkenberg Hutterian Brethren
A. Anderson P. Forre Kenneth Lyseng Don Green Wendy Wolfe Sprague	Rev. Almgren Oscar Shold Dr. Billig	Julius Olson Don Saltwid Arnold Malone	Albert Lyseng Emil Lyseng Arthur Margaret Lyseng Albert Lyseng Emil Lyseng W. Albert Sigrun Lyseng	Carl Anderson Philip Anderson Hanna Evers Philip Anderson Sven Johnson Fridtjof (Cohgregation) Theo Carlsson Oy F. Carlsson	Carl Carl Grace Anderson Anderson Anderson	John Ludwig Anderson Lewis Evers James Severson Hans Louise Palm Bengt Anderson Clint Macdhee John & Joe Mahar Hutterian Brethren	Frank Nelson Don Tulkenberg Hutterian Brethren
Elling Olson Elling Olson Earle Erickson Hauve Erickson	Die Disc Anton Olson Norma Olson	Carl Johnson Ola Peterson Oscar Jasmun Lorenz Wenig	Albert Lyseng Emil Lyseng Arthur Margaret Lyseng Albert Lyseng Emil Lyseng W. Albert Sigrun Lyseng	Carl Anderson Philip Anderson Hanna Evers Philip Anderson Sven Johnson Fridtjof (Cohgregation) Theo Carlsson Oy F. Carlsson	Carl Carl Grace Anderson Anderson Anderson	John Ludwig Anderson Lewis Evers James Severson Hans Louise Palm Bengt Anderson Clint Macdhee John & Joe Mahar Hutterian Brethren	Frank Nelson Don Tulkenberg Hutterian Brethren

Kingman Rd. No.

15/3/48

TSP. 47

Acresage - middle of N.W. 9. Alfred Buvell.
 south of N.W. 9 - D. Harphuk.



Program	
Opening Chorus	school children
Recitation	R. Olson
Christmas Secret	7 children
Christmas Influence	Dialogue
Recitation	R. Lyseng
Stocking Drill	8 children
"Who can Tell?"	3 children
Recitation	P. Olson
Solo	R. Pederson
Trials at Headquarters	Dialogue
Recitation	M. Lyseng
Song	small children
Recitation	H. Cardiff
Merry Christmas	14 children

Program	
Little Pitchers	Dialogue
Recitation	S. Lyseng
Recitation	A. Davidson
Duet	R. Pederson, S. Lyseng
Unexpected Company	Dialogue
Recitation	A. Olson
Star Drill	7 girls
Recitation	S. Cardiff
Rose and Thorn	Dialogue
Closing Chorus	school children
God Save the King	
Raffle of Cushion	
auctioning of Toys	
E. Augustus Carothers	

Christmas Greetings from Lyseng School.

tending Normal for one year and those with a grade eleven education received a Class B Certificate.

Teacher's salaries increased to \$1000.00 a year by 1920 but gradually decreased to \$700.00 a year by 1935 due to the depression.

Rural schools, Lyseng school included, became the center of community gatherings, socials, programs and picnics which all parents and children attended. If the young men of the district got wind of what the teacher's pie or basket looked like, you can be sure her boy friend had to pay a price for it.

Parochial school was held in the school for two of three weeks during the summer. Here Norwegian was taught and the Catechism, the Bible and Scriptural memorizations were all in Norwegian. This helped the children keep up their grandfather's language as well. However, today only the older generation can still carry on a conversation in the language of their forefathers.

The School Board hired students to do the janitor work and other duties around the school. The fireman was paid ten to fifteen cents a day to get to school early to build a fire. Those who carried water and swept the floor were paid three to five cents per day. Sometimes on cold windy days it was impossible to keep the school warm so lunch boxes were placed around the furnace to insure not having to eat frozen sandwiches.

In the early twenties a basketball team was organized and became very popular. The costumes worn were knee length, full pleated, serge bloomers with white middy blouses which had large square navy collars with white braid trim. They wore a navy tie.

It might be interesting to mention the clothes worn by the children who attended rural schools. Some had to travel or walk three miles to school so it was necessary to dress warmly. Girls as well as boys wore long sleeved, ankle length underwear with buttoned back flaps. Girls wore heavy knee length



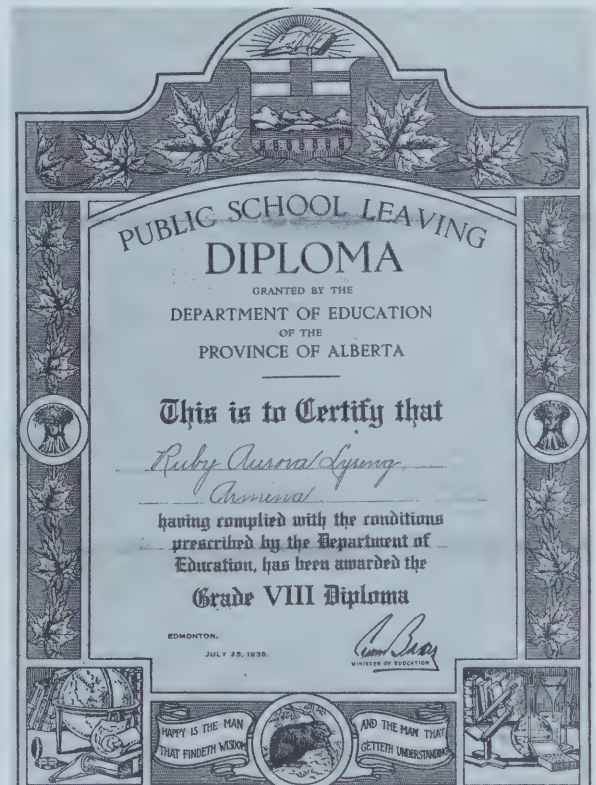
Lyseng School in early days.

bloomers as well and boys wore heavy trousers. Both wore woollen knitted socks which came well up over the knee. Four or five buckle cashmere overshoes or mocassins with inner felt soles and two pair of woollen socks were the order of the day. Teachers had an extra chore by making sure each student was properly bundled up in scarves, toques and mitts before leaving school.

After attending to necessary after-school duties and walking a mile or two, a teacher often reached



Lyseng school children.

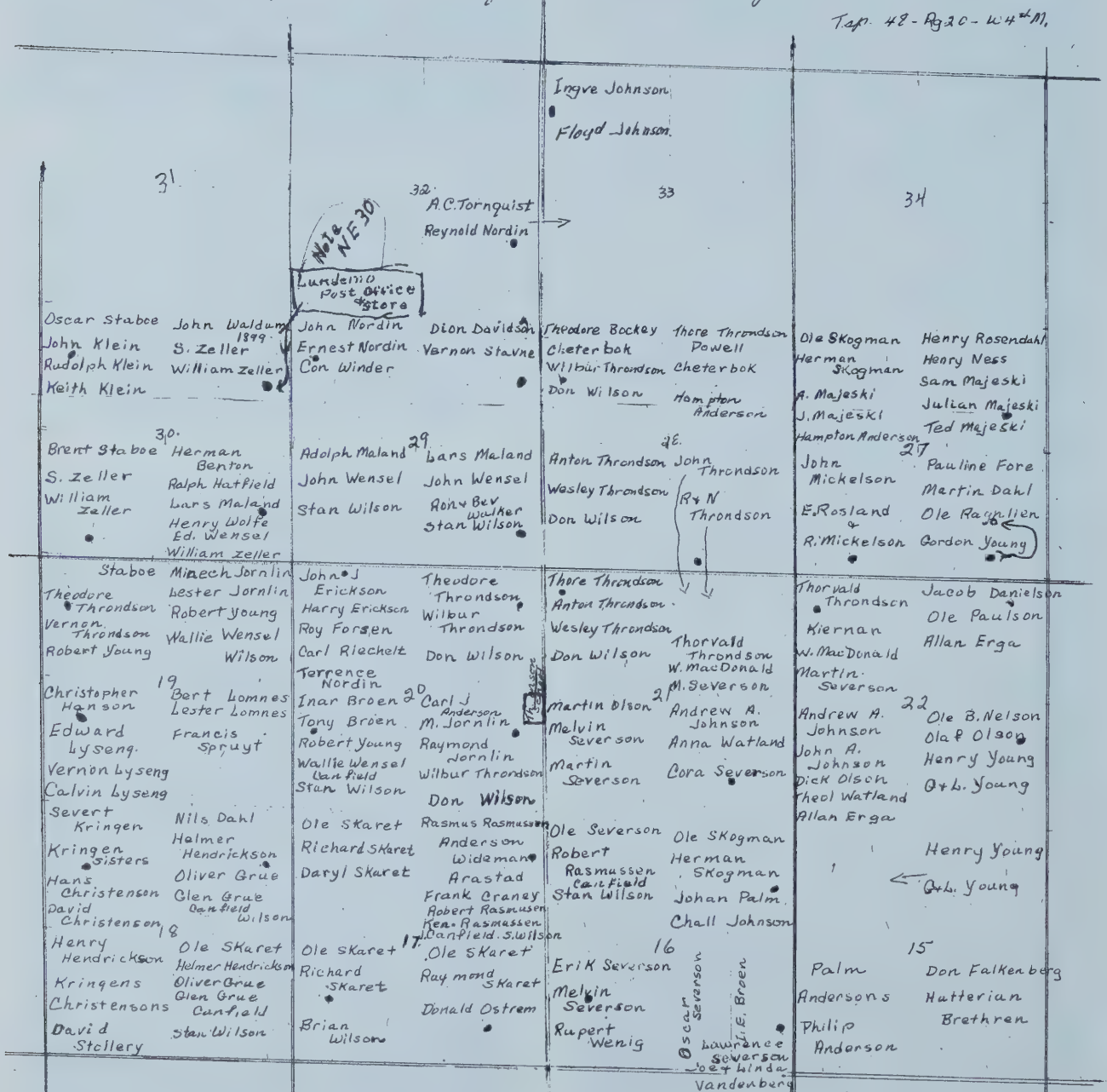


I passed my grade VIII! Ruby.

In 1944 Lyseng School was closed. The students in the vicinity attended Baldenstein until such time as arrangements were made to transport them by bus to the centralized school at Armena.

Lyseng School, once a landmark and a great learning center, is gone forever and in years to come will be obliterated from memory. Instead, it will become cherished history.

Tap. 48 - Pg 20 - W 4th M.



Acres - Merril Stavne - N.E. 29
(A) - Rubeen Moch - S.E. 30
- Ron Walker - S.E. 29

Jim & Marie Canfield - N.E. 17.
John Bird - S.E. 20

Thronson School (Political Arena)

Thronson School was also used to house the Social Credit meetings during their reign. One meeting, a local musical group was asked to perform. They composed the following song and rendered it, to the tune of "The Old Grey Mare", to the accompaniment of violins and guitars —

"Oh Social Credit ain't what it used to be

Ain't what it used to be

Ain't what it used to be

Social Credit ain't what it used to be

Many long years ago

Many long years ago

Many long years ago

Oh Social Credit ain't what it used to be

Many long years ago!"

"Here we sit like birds in the wilderness

Birds in the wilderness

Birds in the wilderness

Here we sit like birds in the wilderness

Waiting for the dividend to come

Waiting for the dividend to come

Waiting for the dividend to come

Oh here we sit like birds of the wilderness

Waiting for the dividend to come!"

Needless to say, the performance was not very much appreciated.

Thronson School #925 by Mr. Nelvin Thronson

Many times when recognition is given to a great man for his outstanding achievements, mention is made of the fact that he began his education in a little one-room school in the woods or on the prairies of our nation.

The bottom rung on the ladder to his success was earned by learning the three R's as taught by one teacher for eight grades in a public school.

It is with a bit of nostalgia we record a bit of this school history. The task is quite difficult as the records which were delivered to the county office are now missing. We must trust to the memory of those who were there and apologize for any errors or discrepancies.

Shortly after 1900, with the influx of settlers, many with several children, the need for a school became apparent. Mr. Andrew Johnson was very interested and tried repeatedly to organize a school district. The first vote ended in failure. In consulting the authorities, they suggested calling for another vote. If this also failed they would put it through anyway as there were plenty of children in the district



Thronson pupils — 1916. Mr. McElvy (teacher), Clifford Skogman, Harold Rasmussen, Erik Hansen, Melvin Severson, Robert Rasmussen, Helmer Skaret, Lennard Thronson, George Rasmussen, Pauline Fohr, Edith Skogman, Bertha Skogman, Ragnild Skaret, Inez Thronson, Sophia Rasmussen.



Thronson pupils 1917 or 1918. Left to Right: George Rasmussen, Lennard Thronson, Rudolph Skogman, Melvin Severson, Eldie Edvald, Helen Thronson, Harold Rasmussen, ?, Clifford Skogman, Vernon Thronson, Lester Jornlin, Bertha Skogman, Helmer Skaret, teacher — Frances Nelson.

who required a school. This vote was carried and Thronson School District #925 was formed in 1905.

The school was built by Mr. Nils Dahl and Mr. Eric Severson as supervisors. Men from the district gave volunteer help. The school was named after the Thronsons but was spelled without the "D", perhaps to make it sound more Canadian. It was located on the N.E. Corner S.E. ¼ 19-48-20-W4. This land was owned by Mr. Minech Jornlin.

The first school board consisted of Mr. Andrew Johnson, Mr. Sivert Kringen and Mr. Bernt Staboe. Andrew Johnson was secretary-treasurer, and held that position until about 1916. Board members in 1907 were Mr. Eric Severson and Mr. Ole Skogman. In 1917 the board consisted of Mr. M. R. Jornlin, Mr. Anton Thronson and Mr. Rasmus Rasmussen. Some others serving as secretary-treasurers were Mr. John Erickson, Mr. Lars Maland, Mr. Anton Thronson, Mrs. Ralph Hatfield and Mr. Wm. McDonald. Others took turns in serving on the board.

The school opened on July 1, 1905 with Mr. John D. Gilchrist as the first teacher. He boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thor Thronson. The first pupils were Nettie and Albert Odden, Clara, Petra, and Pauline Kringen, Avy Marie and Arthur Skaret, Ingvald and Selma Dahl, Florence, Rose, Dorand Murnell Skogman, Hercules Butchart, Jonas and Mathilda Grundberg, Martha Anna, Oliva, Josephine and John Johnson.



Thronson School girls. Left to Right: Velma Jornlin, Julia Klein, Helen Zeller, Annie Klein, Eldie Edvald, Helen Thronson, Olga Skaret.

The Kringen and Skaret children had been attending the Thordenskjold School but transferred to the Thronson School when it opened.

Other children attending in the first years were Edith and Herman Skogman, Nannie and Ellen Grundberg, Nelvin Prestlien, Carrie Odden, Gerda Hanson, Lloyd Nelson, Agnes and Inga Lund and Dick Olson.

Following is a list of the teachers and the years they taught —

Mr. John D. Gilchrist
Mr. Herbert Wade

Mr. James Younie

July 1905 to April 1906
January, February and March of 1907
the fall of 1907 to summer of 1908

Miss Ethel Behrens
Mr. Duncan Martin
Mr. Oliver McKee

summer and fall of 1909
spring of 1910
March 1911 to January 1912
(boarded at O. Skarets)

The next six teachers taught during the years from 1913 to 1917 or thereabouts and all boarded at the Rasmussen home —

Miss Winnifred Tucker
Miss Edna Abercrombie
Mr. Charles McKelvey
Miss Frances Copperud
Miss Florence Nelson
Mrs. McLean

Later there was —

Miss Dorethy Diller
Miss Laura Gillespie
Miss Paton
Miss Emma Hilland (Mrs. A. Broen)
Miss Coral Ranks
Miss Mabel Birkness (Mrs. Roland Wade)
Mr. Ole Standhal — 1923-24
Mr. Joe Ellingson — 1924-25
Miss Nellie McLean — Fall of 1925
Miss Madelin Stordhal — January to June of 1926 (Mrs. R. Roth)
Miss Frances McDonald — 1926-27
Mr. Sidney Nelson — 1927-28
Mrs. Margaret Skaret — 1928-29-30-31
Mr. Raymond Skaret — 1931-32-33
Mr. Dick Robertson — 1933-34-35-36-37
Miss Judith Knudson — 1937-38 (Mrs. Chester Thronson)
Mr. Nils Kvisle — 1938-39
Mr. Arthur Solheim — 1939-40
Miss Edith Thronson — 1940-41-42
Miss Irene Jones — 1942-43 (Mrs. James Moore)
Miss Martha McCormick — 1943-44 (Mrs. Ken Ovelson)
Mrs. Grace French — 1944-45-46-47 until April 30, 1948
Miss Audrey Wilcox — taught the last two months of the term May and June 1948 (Mrs. T. Duggan)

Many of these teachers boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Thronson — other boarding places being John Erickson, John Thronson, and Wm. MacDonald.

With the coming of consolidated schools a meeting was called in June 1948 when it was decided to close the school and transport the children by bus to other schools.

This business of education can be quite complex. In the one-room school it wasn't all done in the classroom. All the activities helped build character by healthy competition and co-operation. On sultry summer days the school became hot and stuffy. Teacher would despair at reaching the unresponsive pupils with a bit of knowledge. With the coming of recess and with the magic words "class dismissed", a remarkable change takes place. The whole school comes to life. With flying feet and joyful cries, the school erupts like a pent up volcano. Children rush through the door (and windows too if the teacher isn't looking) to resume the game so recently interrupted by the ringing of the bell. With cries "I'm first to



Mothers enjoying Thronson School picnic, 1947.



Lopsided pyramid — at Thronson school, 1937. Bottom Left: Leif Davidson. Bottom Right: Wilbur Thronson. Top Left: Donald Rasmussen. Top Right: Adair Rasmussen.



Thronson School boys. Back Row: Lester Jornlin, Clifford Skogman (behind), Lennard Thronson, Vernon Thronson. Front Row: George Rasmussen, Helmer Skaret, Sebastian Zeller.

bat” or “Pom, pom pullaway, if you don’t come I’ll pull you away” the game again gets underway. Farmers nearby look up from their work with a thoughtful expression and say, “It’s recess time again.”

Games were just as exciting in spite of the lack of proper equipment. If the bat broke, a fence post would do. If the ball was lost or worn out one of rags or string would substitute. The nearest willow bush yielded sticks for a game of “Chinnee.” Rocks from the roadside served for “Duck on the Rock.” With lots of enthusiasm the games would be played until recess was over.



Thronson Pupils, 1943-1944. Back Row, Left to Right: Gordon Rasmussen, Mary Zeller, Mildred Young, Gladys Rasmussen, Eileen Mickelson, Donald Rasmussen, Lyle Thronson, Verner Davidson. Centre Row: Loretta Thronson, Viola Rasmussen, Joan Zeller, Kathleen Rasmussen, Ruth Zeller, Violet Severson, Lorne Broen. Front Row: Ordean Broen, Gerald Thronson with cat, Anne Zeller, Raymond Skogman.

The ability of the teachers varied, but most of them did their work well and showed a lot of ingenuity in dealing with the little problems in front of them. One person recalls a well deserved punishment he and another boy received. It seems they brought the outdoor sport of snaring gophers indoors. During school hours they were taking turns snaring each others fingers which they poked through the ink well hole in the top of the desk. The game became so exciting they forgot all about the teacher. They



Thronson School Pupils, May 2, 1945.

laughed out loud and talked until teacher stood before them. Without delay he proceeded to use a ruler on their hands. One boy jerked back and received double measure. Some teachers believed in the old adage “Spare the rod and spoil the child.” They used the strap at every opportunity. One claimed he could strap the arm up to the elbow. It can be said “Their success with discipline was not necessarily better than those using other means of punishment.” One teacher was told by a crying boy that the others were going to bury him. The teacher, on seeing the large hole in the ground whispered something to the other boys. They immediately seized the teacher and pushed him in and proceeded to shovel dirt on top of him. The crying boy was soon laughing with the rest.

During the first years the teachers had the added chores of teaching the little Norwegians and Swedes how to speak English. One boy recalls that he went to the head of the class because he was the only one who could say “tea kettle.”

With so many grades, the teacher had to remind the other grades not to pay attention to the class up front. It was difficult to concentrate when the primary class was being told an interesting story. A funny answer would bring an immediate response from the rest of the school. Here is an example: A small boy was reading the poem about the wind. Instead of reading “Like ladies skirts, across the grass” he read “like ladies shirts across the grass.” Everyone laughed.



Thronson School Pupils, May 2, 1947. Mildred Hallgren brought cake and ice cream to celebrate Neva's birthday.

The school wasn’t insulated and had no storm doors or windows. The large stove in the corner would roast you on one side while you froze on the other. The floor was cold too. The stove pipes which ran the length of the room would on occasion come undone and clatter, to the floor. Soot would scatter far and wide. At times the stove would take a temperamental streak and smoke would pour out, driving

everyone outside for fresh air. In order to have something warm for their lunch the children would take turns bringing a pail of milk to school to make hot cocoa. This would be put on top of the stove to heat. One time they forgot to loosen the lid and an explosion occurred, sending the boiling milk to the ceiling. The result was no hot cocoa that day — and the unpleasant odor of burnt milk.

The library was a never ending source of information and entertainment. The Books of Knowledge were used by all. There were other interesting books on many subjects. It happened often that some one would become so engrossed in a book that he didn't prepare his lesson properly. When his class period came he would be far away in a land of make believe. He may have been eagerly waiting for the genie of the lamp to speak. The voice which came would rudely jolt him back to reality with an impatient "Class, attention please!" No amount of talking could persuade the teacher that knowing about the magic carpet would substitute for a 500 word essay on the "Textile Industry."



Ready, set go! Thronson School Picnic, 1947. Left to Right: Grace French (teacher), Ida Thronson, Petra Kringen, Ruth Skaret, Agnes Severson.

There are a couple of stories about teachers. One lady teacher was walking to school. It had been raining and she dropped into a water filled telephone pole hole.

Another had the habit of leaving school to go to the nearest phone almost every noon hour to talk to his girl friend. He would also occupy himself cutting up the children's rulers to make boomerangs etc. A visit from the school inspector would always put the children on their best behavior. The teacher would always show nervous strain. One time Mr. John Russel used the whole class period drilling a literature class on "The Strawberry." We still have to "probe and probe for words to describe its surprising virtues. Another time he was so pleased with conditions, as

well as perfect attendance record, that he granted school an afternoon off for a picnic. This was held at a log house built by the boys. The parents were invited and an enjoyable time was had by all.

The story of Thronson School is only partly told. This school, like many others had few luxuries or modern aids. They did, however, serve in their time, and pupils did learn self reliance and inventiveness in using the materials and resources at their disposal.

Perhaps there are no great scientist among the many pupils who attended Thronson School, but there are scores of good citizens making an honest living in many occupations which include farming, teaching, clergy, and other professions. Several served their country in time of war and some gave their lives.

The school had been moved to the Camrose Hutterite Colony and is still in use as a school. As we pass by the site, the building still stands in our memory. In passing by we seem to hear the sound of the bell silencing temporarily the boisterous shouts of children at play. Soon we hear the busy hum as children settle down to another hour of intensive study. The smooth operation of the education plant is momentarily interrupted as some one giggles and teacher taps her desk and says "No whispering in class please."

The New School Ma'am! **author unknown**

She's got a bunch of yellow curls,
She's chubby like and small.
With big blue eyes, and glasses too-
Don't look like much at all.

But say, don't fool yourself with looks,
We've got no fun at school
No whispering or passing notes,
And no one breaks a rule.

Just yesterday at last recess
She heard Sig Murray swear
Boy, what a wallop he got!
He says it hurts yet, so there!

But you should see her out of school-
She's someone else, Oh My!
She's full of laughs and jokes and smiles
And sweet as pumpkin pie.

Well, I heard my big brother
Ask her for a date
And yeah! I caught them kissing too
One night they came in late.

There's gonna' be a wedding soon,
I'd like to bet my hat.
He says 'taint serious, least not yet-
But then they all say that.

Still after they've been hitched awhile
He'll see through all the gloss
'Cause when he knows her as well as I
He'll find out who is boss!

If I Were A Teacher for One Day **Myrtle Stromme, Atlas, Saskatchewan**

If I were a teacher one day
What a glorious day it would be!
To stand up in front so trim and so, so smart,
Look over my specs for to see.
In the morning we'd have The Lord's Prayer,
Followed at once by a song:
They'd all put their hands up for one special piece,
"O, Canada," would win before long.
Then work would begin with all sorts of zest,
Arithmetic, spelling, hygiene;
And civics and grammar and comp.—
"What's that?"
"Oh, teacher, this problem is mean."
And so through the day I'd talk and explain,
Till their minds would rest on that point.
"Johnny, stop whispering and get right to work,
Or the strap is the one I'll appoint!"
Such a day! Such a day! I never did dream
That three-thirty would come and I'd say—
"Books away, sit up straight, march out, ahem!
There they've gone 'til another long day."
Oh, this world is so full of such wonderful things;
"We shouldn't complain," do you say?
But what an experience I've just gone through
When I was a teacher "one" day.

The Old Schoolhouse **Bubbling Brook (15) Sexsmith, Alberta**

The door breezed open gently,
As tho' it sensed my coming
The wind ushered me in
Among tumbling autumn-colored leaves
Which had been left to rot and die.
I stood for a long moment:
In the centre stood the old wood stove.
There I could visualize
Frosty faced youngsters
Warming chilly hands and selves
Over the glowing fire thrust outward.
The tattered old map—
 mouse chewed,
Hung in haphazard pose on the wall.
This had taught each one of us
To become explorers of the unknown world.
A few worn books lay scattered;
These pages that had taught

Us to believe and be what
Kind of persons we now were.

In the cloak rooms
The secrets and dreams shared
Creep slowly out of the knife carved walls
And shared again with me
The desire of youth.

Ah! there were many initials
Carved boldly on the wood
And others of fiends of mine.
My heart swelled
Those had been good days!
I wish now I had remembered
This schoolhouse of my childhood
It was only yesterday
I heard it had been sold
To some callous old farmer
Who thought the solid walls
Would make a good holder of grain,
Not one of dreams
Or memories.

As I left, I paused and I could hear
Childrens' shouts and laughter
As they raced down the stairs
And into the afternoon sun.

I turned abruptly
Only to see the door swish shut
In the evening breeze.

Thronson School **as remembered by Lester Jornlin**

The Thronson School was one of the early schools in the area. Teachers boarded at the Rasmussens and later at the Anton Thronsons. There were many functions held at the school as it was the center of activities.

I remember that a preacher or evangelist held meetings on Sundays, with good crowds in attendance. The school was also the meeting place for the Pretty Hill band. This band was active from early days and was featured at church picnics, sports days, etc. Members of this band were Paul Berg (as leader), Carl Anderson, Anton Thronson, Lawrence Severson, Robert Rasmussen, and others.

Games we played at school were pomp-pomp-pullaway, shinny, and coyote. The Christmas program was a highlight of the year, with presents and a candle lit Christmas tree. There was always a full house of spectators for this event.

I remember one older school child who was sent by the teacher to bring in a switch so that another child could be punished. He first brought in a tiny twig and then, that being refused, he tried to drag in a tree. He was of course punished severely.

I remember also the old pot-bellied stove in the middle of the school room, with cocoa simmering on top for lunch. Sometimes we could draw up our desks around the stove for more warmth during cold winter days.

Lastly, I wish to express deep appreciation and respect for all the hard labor and trying times our parents and teachers went through during those pioneer days.

History of the Busk's School

Minne E. Soderstrom

It was in September 1910 when the Busk's school first opened its doors for learning. Although there were many other schools open before that time, with Thordenskjold to the north and East Bittern Lake exactly six miles south, there was an area between these two schools that were too far away from either of these schools.

A few of the ratepayers got together and decided to start negotiations for another school for this area. J. B. Erickson was elected as Secretary-Treasurer with Tom Mikalecky as chairman and August Thunberg as the trustee. The procedure began in 1908. They were to start negotiations for this proposed school. Mr. Erickson began correspondence with the Department of Education immediately. It was not long before he had a letter from Mr. D. McKenzie, who was then the Deputy Minister of Education. He stated in this letter before any action could be taken to build this proposed school in township 47 and 48, range 21, west of the 4th meridian, they would first have to get some of the land bordering East Bittern and Thordenskjold. They must also be sure of eight children for the school. Negotiations at once began with East Bittern Lake and Thordenskjold regarding the purchasing of some of this land. Thordenskjold in turn was to get some land from the Swan Hill area. However, it was finally agreed upon these purchases. Shortly a map showing the suggested boundaries were sent out by the Department of Education in Edmonton for the new proposed district. This was agreeable to both East Bittern and Thordenskjold.

A name had to be decided on for the school. After some considerable thought etc. it was decided to name it after one of the first old timers in this area. Mr. Busk who with his family came in 1902 homesteaded the land just across from where the school was going to be built. So the school was going to be called Busk's school. The number of the school given by the Department was 2120.

On September 23rd, 1909 all the necessary forms together with a copy of the school ordinance was sent to the Secretary Mr. J. B. Erickson. The petition was

completed and sent back to the Department of Education.

Plans now went ahead to build the school. A site for the proposed school was chosen. The sum of \$20.00 was paid to O. Rogness of Camrose for the school property which was two acres. This land was later purchased by Swan Soderstrom who moved into this district from Sifton in 1917. Later in 1927, this farm was taken over by his son Ewald, who is still sole owner of this land. Then on July 2nd, 1910, W. A. Fift was paid \$18.00 for drawing up a plan and preparing specifications etc. for the school building.

John P. Nelson made the foundation for the new school at a cost of \$9.00. Alfred Anderson hauled the sand, stone, cement and water; he also did the brushing, breaking, discing, etc. for the school site. Duggan and Towmey — General Hardware, Furniture and Farm Implements of Camrose supplied some of the hardware necessary to build the new school. Later this firm became known as Bugar Davison and Company Hardware, stoves, tinware and Household Furniture.

The lumber for the school was purchased from Manning Sutherland Lumber Company in Camrose in June, 1910. The cost of the material was \$476.85.

Andrew Larson at that time living on the farm now owned by Rolf Welda hauled the lumber for \$6.00.

John Selness of Camrose built the school at a cost of \$293.00. August Thunberg also had a part in the building. He dug the pits, and built the closets for the sum of \$3.00.

Alfred Anderson then hauled the lumber for the school barn which was very necessary at a school in these days. Many of the children drove to school with buggies and cutters, some rode horse back and many just walked, especially in the springs work, when the horse was needed to help put the crop in. Many children often had to walk 2½ miles to school one way.

John Vikberg was the carpenter who built the school barn which was 14' x 20' x 6'. The sum of \$10.00 was paid for this job.

Now that the school was built, there was a need for the desks, black boards etc. and other necessary school equipment. All these needs were supplied by The Western Supply Company in Regina, Saskatchewan at a cost of \$112.07. This was all shipped to Camrose.

The large heater or stove was purchased from Duggan and Towmey included joints, pipes and elbows at a cost of \$18.50.

In September 1910 the school was ready for classes. Miss Bessie McLeod was the first teacher. Some of the students at that time were: Alfred and



Moving Busk School from the first site to the N.W. corner on the Soderstrom farm in 1926. One John Deere, two McCormick-Deerings, and one Hart Parr tractor could not pull it so with the help of four horses they moved it.



Moving Busk School to north of Martin Hendricksens in 1941. Here it was re-named Thordenskjold II.

Hilda Busk, Ester and Dick Erickson, Matelda Thunberg, Viola Erickson and several others.

The first inspector was Mr. Fred McNally followed by John Russell. Alfred Anderson delivered the first load of coal to the school at a cost of \$6.00 for coal and hauling.

In November of that same year, 1910, the Andrew Larsons cleaned the school for the sum of \$2.00. Just before the opening of the Busk's school the secretary-treasurer took out fire insurance for the school with Queen's Insurance Company of American for 36 months at a cost of \$20.00. Frank L. Farley of Camrose was the agent.

As time went on and the country became more settled, fences went up around the farmsteads. There were no more short cuts across vacant lands, which then made it further for most of the children to school, so the ratepayers decided that the school should be moved $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north to the first corner. By this time there were a few tractors in the district, so in the summer of 1927, six farmers were able to supply tractors for this big venture. Jack Johnson and J. B. Erickson each had a John Deere while W. J. Moore had a Harry Rober Rober and Evald Soderstrom had

an International Harvester or McCormick as they were called at that time. Alex Hamilton had a Hart Parr. After making all preparations for moving the school, the six tractors were hooked on to the school with two abreast. Most of the district turned out for this exciting event.

When everything was in readiness to start the move, they discovered that all of these makes of tractors had different speeds; it seemed they just could not get going to pull together. Finally the job was given up for that day. The next morning they brought out two teams of horses which of course was four horses. When the pull started the school started rolling and it got to its site in due time that day, and there it was put on a previously made cement basement. Swan Soderstrom had previously agreed to give the district three acres for the two acres where the school was put on the foundation. An addition was added to the front of it as a cloak room, also a furnace was installed.

The Busk's school as well as serving as a school was the central place for many a community affair. It served as a place of worship for many years. Pastors from Camrose and elsewhere came out and served the community every Sunday. A regular Sunday School was conducted for several years organized by Carl Soderstrom who taught Sunday School and was assisted by others in the community. For many children it was the only Sunday School training they ever had.

The school served as a central point for many community affairs of various natures. Many a good time was held in the little old Busk school. There were Box socials, pie socials, cup and saucer tea shadow, hand and foot socials. The piano was purchased by way of these socials. Political and telephone meetings were held regularly as well as all kinds of parties. Even a couple of chicken suppers were held, put on by the Busk's Serving Circle. This organization was a district group organized in 1932. In 1940 the name was changed to the "Busk Red Cross". This was when the war broke out. Then still later it was called the Armena Red Cross when the schools became centralized. Then after the war it became the Armena Willing Workers which is still a very active community group. There are only three members from the original Busk Serving left in the group. They are Mrs. Glenn Moore, Mrs. Vernon Stavne and Mrs. E. S. Soderstrom.

Many a Christmas the Busk's school was crowded to its limits for some of the fine concerts that were staged by the pupils at that time. Later on school concerts had to be put on the same night to prevent the overcrowding of the smaller schools.

The school picnic was also an event eagerly



1933, Busk School pupils. Grades IX and X. Left to Right: Andy Erickson, Helen Moore, Margaret Hamilton, Hazel Erickson, Ellen Soderstrom, Rudy Kaiser.

looked for by all the district, which usually took place the last of June. It's like the old timers say when asked about the olden times. They say "I can't remember too much but we sure had some good times."

Twenty one teachers served the Busk school from 1910 to 1941. As mentioned previously Miss Bessie McLeod was the first teacher. She taught the first term of 1910-1911. Miss Georgia Forley from Bittern Lake taught the next two terms 1911-1913. George Hoover also from Bittern Lake taught one term 1913-1914. He later joined the forces, serving in the 1914-1918 world war one.

Miss Wilkins taught the years of 1914 to 1916. Miss Isobelle Wilson was next in line. She had the school also for one term 1916-1917. She later became Mrs. Hansman and now lives at Amisk. Miss Laura La Liberte followed for another term 1917-1918. Miss Mildred Smith served the school also for one year 1918-1919. Then came Miss Mabel Waterston who taught the terms of 1919-1920. Miss Waterston became Mrs. Leslie Jones and is now living in Tofield. Miss Maude Anderson coming from west of this district taught the next term 1920-1921. She later became Mrs. Wright and is living in B.C. Miss Gunderson taught the next term of 1921-1922. Miss Gunderson batched across the road from A. L. Hamiltons in a little house. Stella Hunter, a friend stayed with her. Stella was taking a correspondence course. While here, Miss Gunderson had a few experiences. Baden Smith a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Hamilton who came from Dryden, Ontario, spent part of that summer with the Hamiltons. He played several good tricks on Miss Gunderson. One in particular was when Miss Gunderson and her friend went out to pick a few berries. This was a hot day. When they came back they decided to make some good cool lemonade. So they did, they took sugar

from the sugar bowl to sweeten the lemonade. They tasted it and it didn't seem to get sweet enough they put in the whole bowl full, still it tasted queer, finally they discovered their sugar bowl had contained salt. In the salt shaker was the sugar. However, Baden had a good laugh.

The next one year term was filled by Mrs. Hannah Lyseng who lived quite close to the school. Mrs. Lyseng during her term conducted a three act play when local people filled the cast. Miss Dollivar and Miss Florence Bell each taught a half term. 1923-1924.

Miss Myrtle Larson came from Gywnne and taught one year 1924-1925. Miss Larson is Mrs. Emil Anderson and living in Wetaskiwin. Miss Larson not only taught but she was eager to learn too. It was reported that Herman Erickson taught her how to shoot gophers. We never did hear if she went any further in that course.

Miss Ethel Telning came from Camrose and taught a term and a half. She stayed long in the north. She finally managed to pick up a husband by the name of August Anderson and is living in the Edberg area. Miss Dorothy Murray a girl new from normal finished that half term of 1927. She later became Mrs. Lucien Maynard. Mr. Maynard was Attorney General in the Social Credit Government in the first years.

In 1927 came Miss Iva Harber, also a new teacher from Normal and coming from the Sifton district. Miss Harber broke the long term record by teaching the longest of any teacher at Busk's school. She taught continuously for six years 1927-1933. Miss Harber had quite a large class one year, as some older children in the district and one from E. Bittern Lake took some subjects, by correspondence. Miss Harber, during her term taught a couple of students, who have been outstanding. Neville Roper the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Roper started during Miss Harber's reign. Neville is the Mayor of Rimbey and was recently elected to the Social Credit government, member for Ponoka. Rudy Kaser attended for Busk school for a short while and was one of the correspondence students, he later became Superintendent for schools in the province of British Columbia. Rudy is the son of Mr. Josh Kaser and the late Mrs. Kaser then of Bittern Lake. Miss Harber finally was swept away in a black top buggy and a flying steed, when she became Mrs. Juluis Olson and now lives near Tofield.

Mrs. Velma Jornlin has the next record of three years when she taught 1933-1936. Velma came as a new teacher and came from the Dinant area. Velma became Mrs. Gooch and has taught at the Camrose

Luthern College in Camrose and is now teaching at the University in Victoria, B.C.

Miss Adeline Skattebo (Mrs. John Beiber) of Camrose came to Busk in 1936-1938 teaching two terms. Miss Skattebo during her term very capably directed a three act play "Aunt Samantha Rules the Roost." This was a real comedy play. This play was presented two nights at Busk and was also presented several times in outside areas. This play was ably presented and all times had a capacity crowd. The funds went for community and school projects. In this play Miss Skattebo had the leading role. She was Aunt Samantha, others taking part were Edith Hamilton, Minnie Soderstrom, May Starene, Rita Neal, Marie O'Donnell, Vernon Staune, Andy Erickson, Stanley Erickson, Dale Moore, John Telzner and Erven Fetzner. Miss Skattebo stayed with her sister Mrs. Art Moe during her stay at Busk's school.



Aunt Samantha rules the roost. 1939 Play by Busk Community. Andy Erickson, Marie O'Donnell, Edith Hamilton, Reta Neale, Adeline Skattebo, Minnie Soderstrom, May Stavne, Vernon Stavne, Ervin Fetzner.

Genevieve Sather came from Forestburg and taught the two terms of 1938-1940. Miss Sather as well as being a teacher had a great deal of musical abilities. She was an efficient piano player and had several pupils during her term here. She was also efficient in directing singing chorus's etc.

One of the main highlights during Miss Sather's term was a prairie fire which got out of control.

It was on May 6th, 1939 when the fire took place. A number of the older boys wanted to make a ball diamond, so they went over to Martin Hendrickson farm just kidy corner from the school and proceeded to make this ball diamond. One of the boys got the bright idea of burning the long grass, it was extremely dry that spring, nevertheless they got the fire started and did it go. A brisk wind came up, soon the

fire raged in the big grove of trees and got away in the Hans Mortensons and threatened the buildings on both Mortensons and O'Donnell. The whole district turned out to fight the fire. John Walker also came from Armena with a truck load of help. Even the women all were out fighting the fire, one gang proceeded to move out the contents of the O'Donnell house when the wind abated and the fire became under control. The fire jumped right across the road onto an old straw stack on Hans Mortensons. It was not until about six o'clock that evening before the fire became completely out of control. Miss Sather arrived back at the E. S. Soderstrom home where she boarded completely exhausted, her clothes were parched and black, her hair was straggly and wet and singed from the fire. She really put up a good fight. Miss Sather became Mrs. Bert Friend and is living in the Rosalind district.

The last teacher at Busk was Miss Marion Johnson from Camrose who became Mrs. Tate and is now living in Edmonton. Miss Johnson also excelled in music and played the piano very fluently. She also had music pupils. Miss Johnson taught the term of 1940-1941.

In 1941 when Centralization of schools came in, the Busk's school was once again on the move. This time it was moved by Albert Mettlest and his son. "House Movers" during the summer to north of Martin Hendrickson and given that Norske name of Thordenskjold where it served for a few more years.

The number of the Busk school was passed on to Armena 2120 and Armena school still has that number 2120.

The Busk's district being one of the smaller districts had from 10 to 20 pupils on the average throughout the years.

Boarding places for the teachers were provided by J. B. Ericksons, Mrs. Eddie Lyseng, A. L. Hamiltons, Art Mies, Frank Langstons, Nora Soderstrom and the later ones all stayed at the E. S. Soderstrom home.

During the 31 years of the Busk school many served on the school board. J. B. Erickson served as Secretary-Treasurer for many years and played a large part in the beginning of the school. Others serving on the board were August Thunberg, Thomas Mikulecky, W. J. Moore, Art Moe, E. S. Soderstrom, Carl Soderstrom, A. L. Hamilton and possibly others.

A specific tribute goes out to those early pioneers who struggled so hard in this new country to build up the early schools. A great deal of progress has been made in the education field since those early days. We shall always remember that little white school in the corner where many of us learned the three "R's"

and a tribute goes out to the teachers who worked under much difficulty and hardships to further the education of many a child, as the years went by. This is in a small way the history of our **Busk school**.

I have written this history to the best of my knowledge. Since there were no records left at the school, most of the information was given to me by some of the early students and old timers. A few bills and receipts were salvaged from the Erickson residence.

Armena News

The following is a news article, written by Mrs. E. S. Soderstrom, from the Camrose Canadian. It was dated June 21, 1955.

A large crowd was out for the official opening of the Armena School Addition and Auditorium on Friday evening, June 17th. A fine program was arranged with many guests including C. H. Robinson, former Supt. of Schools, Mr. Chester Sayers, MLA, Mr. Stan Hambly, Supt. of Schools, Dr. H. A. McGregor, Professor, Faculty of Education, Mrs. H. C. Sweet, Asst. Chief Supt. of Schools, Dept. of Agriculture and many others. Mr. Pete Johanson, the contractor, presented the school with a lovely bouquet of flowers for which he received thanks and appreciation. A lovely lunch was served by the Armena Home and School Association.

In the fall of 1955, the new addition was used. The use of the old Dinant School was discontinued for, as stated in Minutes of July 7, 1955, Ministerial Approval was secured to sell.

Mr. F. W. Lehmann remained as Principal of Armena School until June, 1958. Austin Youngberg stayed on as Vice-Principal until June, 1957, and Norma Pedersen until the spring of 1957.

In 1955-1956:

Delores Neske — twenty students — Grades five and six
E. Jean Fraser — twenty-three students — Grades three and four
Norma Pedersen — twenty students — Grades one and two

In 1956-1957:

Besides F. W. Lehmann, A. Youngberg, and N. Pedersen
Lois Haukedal — Grades five and six

Delores F. Roose — Grades three and four

In 1957-1958:

F. W. Lehmann — Grades nine through eleven

Mary Lehmann — Grades seven and eight

I. McNary — Grades five and six

Betty Saby — Grades three and four

V. Marie Edenlof — Grades one and two

In 1958-1959:

Rodney Thronson — thirty-one students — Grades nine through eleven

Don Green — twenty-four students — Grades seven and eight

Lillian Peterson — twenty-four students — Grades five and six

Betty Saby — twenty-one students — Grades three and four

Marie Edenlof — twenty students — Grades one and two

That term there was one-hundred and twenty (120) students in Armena.

Beginning with the term 1959-1960, Grade eleven was discontinued. These students had their tuition paid and were given an allowance to attend school in Camrose.

In 1959-1960:

Erling Jonson — twenty-three students — Grades nine and ten

Don Green — twenty-three Students — Grades seven and eight

Lillian Peterson — twenty-four students — Grades five and six

Carol Olson — twenty-four students — Grades three and four

Elouise Swanson — twenty-four students — Grades one and two

In 1960-1961, Grades eleven (and Grade twelve) were bused to Camrose.

In 1960-1961:

Erling Jonson — seventeen students — Grades nine and ten

Don Green — twenty-two students — Grades seven and eight

Marilyn Thronson — twenty-three students — Grades five and six

Carol Olson — twenty students — Grades three and four

Elouise Swanson — twenty-four students — Grade one and two

In 1961-1962, Grades nine, ten, and eleven were bused to Hay Lakes. Two buses picked up the children as usual but, in Armena one bus took Grades nine, ten, and eleven to Hay Lakes. The teaching staff was reduced to four teachers.

Don Green — eighteen students — Grades seven and eight

Marilyn Thronson — twenty-four students — Grades five and six

Dorothy Henry — twenty-two students — Grades three and four

Irene Moore — twenty students — Grades one and two

In 1962-1963:

Don Green — twenty-six students — Grades seven and eight

Lyle Erga — nineteen students — Grades five and six

Elizabeth George — twenty-five students — Grades three and four

Irene Moore — nineteen students — Grades one and two

In 1963-1964:

Don Green — twenty students — Grades seven and eight

Lyle Erga — twenty-two students — Grades five and six

Elizabeth George — twenty-three students — Grades three and four

Irene Moore — twenty-six students — Grades one and two

In 1964-1965:

Don Green — fifteen students — Grades seven and eight

Edith McNary — twenty-five students — Grades five and six

Mary Grue — sixteen students — Grades three and four

Irene Moore — nineteen students — Grades one and two

In 1965-1966:

Don Green — eighteen students — Grades seven and eight

Edith McNary — nineteen students — Grades five and six

Mary Grue — twenty-two students — Grades three and four

Irene Moore — seventeen students — Grades one and two

In 1966-1967:

Don Green — twenty-four students — Grades seven and eight

Olive Thronson — eighteen students — Grades five and six

Mary Grue — eighteen students — Grades three and four

Irene Moore — eighteen students — Grades one and two

After Grades nine, ten, and eleven left, the north room of the original building was used as a T. V. room and the basement classroom was used as a film room.

The last named teachers continued in the same Grades until June, 1971, when the Grades three and four room was closed. The Grade three students went into Mrs. Moore's room and the Grade four students to Mrs. Thronson's room. Mary Grue was transferred to the Grade four class in Sifton School, Camrose.

From September, 1971 to June, 1975, Don Green, Olive Thronson and Irene Moore taught. June 30, 1975 was the last day of school and starting in the fall of that same year, the children were bused

to Hay Lakes. All three teachers were also transferred to the Hay Lakes School.

Janitors:

At the beginning, children were hired to sweep and someone else for firing. Oscar and Annie Grue were two of these early janitors.

Leif, Alna, and Lyle Nisi did the janitor work the longest — about seventeen years.

Lauritzens did janitor work too, for a short time.

Adolph and Doris Peterson did the janitor work for a few years.

The last years the school was in operation, the Nichols family were the custodians.

Bus Drivers: And then there were the bus drivers. They safely delivered the children to school and home again, in all kinds of weather and sometimes on roads in very poor condition.

Lief Nisi, Harvey Cardiff and Robert Lyseng all drove for short periods.

Evert and Edwin Grue were the first bus drivers after some of the schools were centralized to Armena.

Adolph Peterson drove for many years and received his twenty-five year pin, but, James Moore drove the longest, only one month less than thirty years.

David Stollery also drove a bus, for about nine years.

Norman Moe has driven for about nine years and is now, in March, 1982, still driving a bus to Hay Lakes.

Some of Edwin and Evert Grue's experiences as bus drivers during those early year are related here; as also are Jim Moore's.

Ed and Evert Grue's Early School Bus Highlights

When centralization took effect in 1948, Evert and Ed Grue were hired as the drivers to bring in the children from the Thronson and Thordenskjold districts.

Evert hauled about fifty youngsters from the Thordenskjold area in a 1940 International truck that was converted into a school bus. The other bus didn't arrive for three months so about forty children from the Thronson area rode in a 1935 two-ton Ford truck until their 1948 Chev bus came.

At that time, there were no high graded roads and no snow plows. In the winter time, it often took three hours, instead of one, to get around the routes. Wages were \$6.50 per day, out of which the drivers had to pay for their gas. Oil and repair expenses were paid for by the county.

Later, when the roads were newly graded and



First bus to Armena. Used September, 1948. Thordenskjold route, 1948-1949. Evert Grue, driver.

high, but not gravelled, Evert usually went as far as Robert Young's and the children met him there. This one morning, no one was there so he went on to Martin Hendrickson's gate. A few of the fathers then had to walk along beside the bus to keep it on that high grade until he got turned around. They advised Evert not to try that road when it was wet.

There was a particularly bad spot at Jack Moore's so a fence post, put between the duals, served as a means of getting back up on the slippery road. Lloyd Grahn was particularly helpful with his tractor.

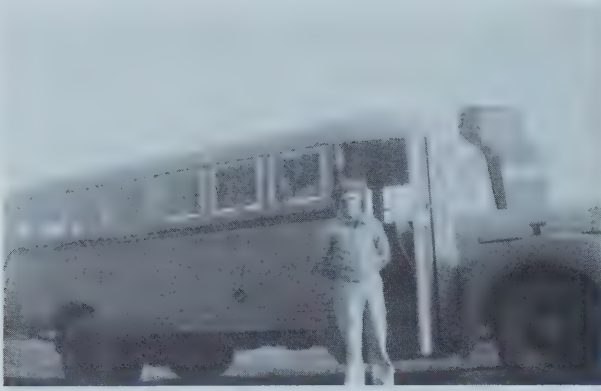
Youngsters always found ways of livening up the long bus ride. One time, an orange, aimed at someone else, hit Evert in the neck. When he asked who did it, no one spoke up. However, a couple of weeks later two girls admitted to their part in the prank. One time Ed put off two boys for misconduct. Just a few minutes later they were picked up by a neighbor and got home before Ed.

Evert drove until the fall of 1950 and Ed continued until 1951. In the intervening years, both roads and wages have improved.

Jim Moore's Reflections As A Bus Driver

I began my schoolbus driving in September of 1951, with a converted K5 International truck which was already nine years old and badly beaten up. Many was the time when Irene helped me start it when I pulled it with either the tractor or the ever faithful team of horses. Jim Sawers was our School Division Trustee at the time and he told me if I would move the old barn from the site of the old Thordenskjold School to my farm, they would fix it up for a bus garage. This was done and a stove was set up in it. The first night I lit a fire in it everything got so hot I had to climb up on the roof and plug the chimney.

In 1953, I was given a new bus to drive and it was a far cry from the old one but, even so, it gave some problems too. That particular year of buses was fa-



Taken in 1949 — 48 passenger bus used for 55 youngsters.
Edwin Grue — driver.

mous for breaking valves and every so often the starter refused to work. I drove this bus for eleven years during which time the bus routes were changing and becoming longer with more schools coming into the Armena School area.

My next bus was a 1964 model, much improved again over the 1953 bus. Improvements were mainly in the way of steering, brakes, and the heating systems.

By this time the School Division, which had now gone to the County System, had a policy of replacing buses when they were eight years old so my 1964 was replaced with a 1972 and that, in turn, with a 1980 which a super bus to drive. I had the misfortune of only driving it for nine months as I did not pass my medical in the spring of 1981. This was the end of my bus-driving career, one month short of thirty complete years.

I recall some very trying instances. One spring when about one-quarter of a mile of road, by Dick Skaret's, was under water, I drove off the road in the middle of it. In February of 1965, on a beautiful warm day, we were just leaving the school to take the children home when it started to snow. In fifteen minutes we had a full-fledged blizzard and the visibility became nil. I had to stop and we just sat there for about forty-five minutes. I finally managed to back up a half-mile to the highway and got back to Armena where the children were taken care of by the good residents there. I took them all home the next day. A similar thing happened just two or three years later and I had to go in to Dave Fetzner's place only to find no one home. We went in and did some phoning and soon the Fetzners arrived home to find seventeen kids and myself in their house. We couldn't have been stranded in a better place for we were made very welcome and Audrey gave us all a very nice supper. After the storm let up and the snow plow came out, I delivered the last kids home about 10:30 that night.

Memories — Armena School

by Olive Thronson

The old school stands in its old place. The windows are boarded and often the grass grows high around the teeter-totters. Within, the halls are empty and silent and cold.

But our memories are warm. For some of you, who weren't here or weren't even born when the school came into being, some of the earliest happenings may be lost.

There were solemn times during departmental examinations, and for first year teachers, especially, the inspector's sudden knock at the door just about nine o'clock. There were times when punishment was imminent, and perhaps feelings of trepidation for a little one as he let loose of his mother's hand and walked into the classroom for the first time in his life.

But memory captures the fun times, the good times. There were Christmas concerts, talent nights, crokinole parties, variety nights, track meets, plays, Centennial programs, and even once an operetta.

Christmas programs were always a joy, certainly for the children, the parents, grandparents, and friends. For the teachers there was always a feeling of apprehension during the weeks of practice beforehand. However the satisfaction as the evening drew to a close was ample repayment. There were songs, recitations, drills, dialogues, rhythm bands, and novelty numbers.

One year, after another school building was pulled in, the teachers decided to put the whole program on twice. The crowd would be too large to be accommodated in one classroom. Both places were decorated with trees and tinsel, crepe paper streamers and bells. Imagine the hurry and scurry of dressing, undressing, the packing and transporting of costumes from one building to the other. The children were real little troupers as they dashed through the cold and snow, and performed equally well the second time.

At last Santa Claus arrived. The distribution of candy bags and the fellowship among young and old added to the magic of the evening.

Along with Christmas programs we remember the Valentine parties and the joy of making valentines for classmates. Hallowe'en parties were held within classrooms decorated to intimidate the bravest ones. The children paraded in their costumes from room to room. Parties were always highlighted with games and with lunch — heart-shaped cookies for Valentine's Day, and the orange icing jack-o-lanterns on the cup-cakes — all brought proudly from Mom's kitchen. Occasionally indoor games were supplemented with skating parties or hay rides.

At Mother's Day parties, the mothers and grand-

mothers were honored with special cards, programs, and lunch.

The older children, who are adults now, may remember when every Friday afternoon was devoted to ball games or hockey games played with other schools. There seemed to be no loss academically — perhaps a gain. Also, remember ‘slave days’ and initiations. Noons and recesses were good times to rush out to play Steal Sticks, Prisoner’s Base, Pum-pum-pull away, Fox and Goose, or to dash to the skating rink. During the winter it was a privilege for some of the older students to be allowed to use some school time for flooding or clearing the skating rink. You earned that right by having your school work finished ahead of time. ‘Way Back’, some of the older boys stayed at the skating shack all night, keeping the old pump going to get the rink made.

Almost as soon as the playground was dry in the spring, practising for the track meet began. Throughout the years track meets took various formats. Sometimes all the children participated in events in Camrose. Later eliminations were held so that only the winners took part and the other children enjoyed complete freedom to watch and cheer and picnic.

Then, again, we remember the track meets which were held entirely at our home school. In the forenoon all the children competed within their own age group in such events as high jump, discus, softball throw, racing, etc. Parents effectively took charge of the events and also were umpires for the ball games which took place in the afternoon and evening. Later ball tournaments were held a different day. All the excitement, the ribbons, the ‘stand’, the hot sun, or sometimes the cold wind, all contributed to an exhausting but a very satisfying day.

Variety nights were entertaining for adults and children. Every room in the school provided some special form of fun. There were rooms for bingo, ring toss, darts, fish pond, mats and ropes set up for boxing, and one room was especially equipped as a spook house. There, in another corner, behind a curtain was a little old gypsy who told your fortune if you crossed her palm with silver. It seemed strange that her eyes were so like those of our younger son!

Very memorable were the Search for Talent Nights. Originally the Northern Alberta Commercial Travellers Association organized an evening of excellent local talent with prizes and opportunities for the winners to attend the finals in Edmonton. The objective was to raise money for the crippled children’s fund. Among those memorable items was the singing of ‘The Blue Skirt Waltz’ by two young girls.

Many times a similar plan was followed to raise money for school use. During the program, students

circulated throughout the audience selling votes for the performers of one’s choice.

The Willing Workers provided many enjoyable evenings. Their sponsorship of the Barbershoppers, fashion shows, etc., brought them funds to be used in many worthwhile ways.

The Armena Athletic Association also raised money for recreation within the community. There were pie socials, ball tournaments, Friday night skating parties, and plays. One three-act play was ‘Aaron Slick from Pumpkin Crick’. It was staged in towns nearby as well.

Our school was the centre for elevator company promotional evenings, elections, school board meetings, Home and School gatherings, A.T.A. North Sub-Local Meetings, graduation teas, and all manner of entertainment.

There was once an operetta adapted from Treasure Island. The older boys at the time weren’t too thrilled with their singing parts, but needless to say, the audience was pleased.

In 1967, Canada’s Centennial Year, a special day and evening were chosen to celebrate Canada’s one-hundredth birthday. Preparations before the big event took place in every classroom and throughout the community. The grade three and four room had a display of artifacts that intrigued all who spent t



Armena School Centennial Program, 1967. Grades one and two portrayed Indians.

day at school. There were spinning wheels, wool carders, churns, irons, butter prints, a Quebec heater, old guns, old harnesses, and many other articles which had been so useful to the pioneers.

Folks came in fashions of the 1800’s — sunbonnets, long dresses, parasols, and for the men and boys there were arm bands, fancy vests, and frilly fronted shirts. We picnicked on home baked beans, brown bread, pickles, lemonade, and goodies that pioneer women would have provided.

In the evening there was a mass program. The little ones, as usual, stole the show with their portrayal of Indians. The children of the other class-

rooms represented explorers, pioneers, cowboys, Mounted Police, missionaries, thus portraying the history of Canada in plays and songs.

Perhaps between these lines, you will be able to read about all those happenings which give you so much laughter when you and your old classmates get together to reminisce.

Memories are precious — to be taken out and viewed, sometimes with misty eyes. They are a gift to us who have at anytime walked within the halls of Armena School.



Norma Pederson's music festival.

Holds Piano Recital

Miss Norma Pedersen had a piano recital at the lovely new home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Axel Pedersen, last Sunday afternoon at 2:30 with parents and relatives present. Miss Pedersen, the music teacher, accompanied all those who played duets. Mrs. Lehmann on the behalf of the parents, extended thanks to Miss Pedersen for the fine effort in training these boys and girls.

Armena School

In 1941, Busk School District ceased to exist and the Armena School District was formed. Armena took the number of Busk — 2120. The Busk School was then moved to north of Martin Hendricksons and was renamed Thordenskjold (II). The first Thordenskjold school was moved fourteen miles to Camrose where it was placed on a full basement, fully repaired, and remodelled for Divisional Office purposes, all at a total cost of \$3,500.00.

In the spring and summer of 1941, a two-roomed school was built in Armena. The foreman was a Mr. Brown and some of the men who worked on the school were Vernon Stavne, Klemmet Lyseng, Harry Lomnes, Bennie Lomnes, and Oscar Grue. The school building was covered with insul-brick and had a full basement with a furnace in it. The total cost of \$7,986.75 was paid for out of current revenues.



Raw brush land before school built.

School opened in September, 1941, with Luther Olson as Principal, and teaching Grades seven, eight, nine, and ten to thirty students. Miss E. Linfield taught Grades one, two, three, four, five, and six to thirty-one students. The students from the first Thordenskjold School and also some students from Busk School made up the enrollment. These same teachers taught until June 30, 1943.

The teacher's salaries in 1941 were an average of \$872.00 (81 teachers). In comparison, as of January 1, 1982, a teacher with four years of training and no experience will receive about \$21,350.00. Text book



Volunteer brush cutters. Preparing land before building Armena School.



School on the way. Rafters going up.



Getting closer to being finished.



The new school at Armena — This is the Bittern Lake school building: the senior room 1954-1955. When our door was barred, a platform was built and we had to go "in and out the window" — the first of the three windows on the west side. Excavation is for the gym and two senior rooms.



Go in and out the window.

rentals, in 1941, for Grades four, five, and six was seventy-five cents (75¢); for Grades seven and eight was \$1.50; and for Grade nine was \$2.00.

In 1943-1944, Miss H. Audrey Millar taught



Board of Trustees of Camrose School Division, 1946. Standing: Inspector C. H. Robinson, Arthur Lewis, Ken Alexander. Sitting: Ole Djuve, George Ulyett, John Walker, Ludvig Pederson.

Grades seven, eight, nine, and ten to twenty-six students and Miss Elizabeth Symington taught Grades one, two, three, four, five, and six to twenty-seven students.

From records that Mr. C. H. Robinson kept, it is interesting to note that one married woman who was asked to help fill the teacher shortage had said that she could make more money by staying home and milking cows.

A 1943 report of Mr. Robinson, who was then Superintendent of Schools for the Camrose School Division, states that centralization was being forced upon the Division Board because of the shortage of teachers. They had no other recourse.

In 1944, Lyseng School was closed with the children going to Thronson, Baldenstein, and Armena Schools.

From the fall of 1944 to June, 1948, Harold Rolseth taught the senior room in Armena. The junior room teachers were Miss Symington from 1944-1945, Laura Berg from 1945-1947, and Ruth Ramstad from 1947-1948.



1948 Chev. — 48 passenger — first bus for Armena. In background, Grue's 1935 Ford truck used before bus was delivered.



First year of Centralization at Armena School, 1948-1949. Grades I to IV Ruth Ramstad (teacher).

In the 1948-1949 term the Thronson and the Thordenskjold school children were brought to Armena. The first bus drivers were Ed and Evert Grue. With the added enrollments another teacher was needed.

Stanley S. Roberts — twenty-five students — Grades nine through eleven

Olive Thronson — thirty-six students — Grades five through eight

Ruth Ramstad — thirty-one students — Grades one through four

The senior grades were in a classroom in the basement.

By now Armena was fully centralized. The school was wired for electricity and fluorescent lighting was installed.

As a result of increased attendance, more room and an extra teacher was needed. The old Dinant School was moved in and located north of the main school.

In 1949-1950:

Oscar Fadum — Grades nine through eleven — twenty-four students — in basement

Wayne French — Grades six through eight — thirty-two students — old Dinant School

Olive Thronson — Grades three through five — twenty-eight students — main building

Ruth Grue — Grades one and two — in main building

Capital Expenditures for 1949-1950:

Two rooms (old Dinat school and basement) \$25,000.00

Two buses \$11,000.00

Total \$36,000.00

In 1950-1951:

M. R. Johnson — twenty-eight students — Grades nine through eleven

Wayne French — twenty-nine students — Grades six through eight

Olive Thronson — thirty-two students — Grades three through five

Doreen Olstad — twenty-eight students — Grades one and two

In 1951-1952:

F. W. Lehmann, P. — twenty-seven students — Grades nine through eleven

Bernard Fossen, V. P. — thirty-one students — Grades six through eight

Olive Thronson — thirty-four students — Grades three through five

Cora Pedersen — twenty-four students — Grades one and two

In 1952-1953:

F. W. Lehmann, P. — twenty-five students — Grade nine through eleven

Marvin Lawes, V. P. — thirty-two students — Grades six through eight

Olive Thronson — forty students — Grades three through five

Cora Pedersen — thirty-one students — Grades one and two

At this time there were many extra children because of the oil boom that had hit Armena. Also, Brandland school was closed and the children were bused to Armena.

The first East Bittern Lake School was built in 1902 and in 1939, a new East Bittern Lake School was built by the Camrose School Division. In 1952, this school was closed and the children were bused to Sifton. The school building was then moved to Armena and when completed, gave Armena School five rooms, including the old Dinant School and the basement room. The East Bittern Lake School became the senior room and was used as such until the fall of 1955.

In 1953-1954:

F. W. Lehmann — eighteen students — Grades nine through eleven

Austin Youngberg — twenty-one students — Grades seven and eight

Delores Neske — twenty-three students — Grades five and six

Avis Lyseng — twenty-five students — Grades three and four

Yvonne Greenwood — twenty-four students — Grades one and two

In 1954-1955:

F. W. Lehmann — twenty-three students — Grades nine through eleven

Austin Youngberg — fifteen students — Grades seven and eight

Nancy Knaut — thirty students — Grades five and six

Wayne French finished May and June of this term.

Edwina Young — twenty-four students — Grades three and four

Norma Pedersen — twenty-one students — Grades one and two

In 1955, an additional two classrooms, a staff room, office, washrooms, hall lockers, and a basement gym were constructed.

The following information was obtained from the County of Camrose.

Armena School District No. 2120

Site: Pt. of SW ¼ 12-48-21, W4th M. containing 9.79 acres

DCT 78-J-93

Mines and Minerals reserved to His Majesty

School:

Five-room frame and stucco with composition and shingle roof. Full brick chimney. The new addition to the building was constructed by General Builders, Camrose in 1955 \$48,801.00

Jorgenson's Plumbing and Heating, Installing

Septic Tank and Field 3,700.00

Dabbs Furniture, 38 Venetian Blinds 565.00

Klugs Sheet Metal, Heating System 756.50

Wm. B. Harberg Electrical, Wiring and Lighting 2,651.00

Wallbank and Hitman, Stucco 608.40

Jorgenson's Plumbing and Heating, Toilets, Urinals,

Basins, Sump Pump and Drinking Fountains 2,230.00

Total Cost \$59,311.90

Insurance Valuation in 1962 \$100,000.00

I have seen many kids come and go to school and have lots of good things to remember.

Kelvin Buban, a student in Grade four when Armena closed in 1975, writes:

The Armena School closed in 1975. The win-



Boys building a hut at Armena School.



Initiation at Armena School, 1960. Linda Wenig, Bonny Erickson, Merton Moore, Cecil Thronsdon, Linda Skaret, Karen Olson.

dows were boarded up and it was no longer to be used as a school. The students attending the school were sad to see it close but yet were excited about going to a different and bigger school in Hay Lakes.

Along with the Armena School come many fond memories. One of the chief events was a trackmeet. It also was a community day and that involved a picnic. Another thing that the students would always look for was a film. When a film would come we would go downstairs to the filmroom and struggle to get a desk at the back. Another feature of the school was a manual bell system. This meant noon hour would sometimes be a full hour long because the bell would ring when the teachers decided it was time.

All year round there were always things to do. In the winter the skating rink was close by and when the weather was too cold to be outside, we would go in the gym. Then springtime would come and there would be a huge puddle just thirty feet from the north entrance. That wasn't the only puddle though, the gym would usually have its share of puddles too! As it got hotter, we would start baseball and teeball for the younger kids and then would come the trackmeet. The trackmeet was enjoyed immensely because the schoolground would be cluttered with activity and we would miss a day's classes. After that came report cards and summer holidays. When the two months were over we would come back and the main recess activity was football.

The school in Armena was quite small compared to Hay Lakes School. All the students, except those who lived right in Armena, were brought to school by two buses. Grades one to eight were taught in Armena and all the Grades nine and the senior high students were taken by bus to Hay Lakes. With just four teachers there were two grades in each class until several years before the closing when there were only three teachers left.

I can remember a few things about the closing of the school and starting at another school. It was quite a change for at Armena we were with other grades and we had just one teacher. In Hay Lakes, however, there was just one grade per room and different teachers for different subjects. In Armena you knew everybody in the whole school but in Hay Lakes getting to know everybody was next to impossible. A student going to Hay Lakes, who used to be in Armena, said when the Armena School closed it was really too bad because Armena was a "nice little school". I think "nice little school" described the Armena School very well.

The Future of the school Building

When asked what was to happen to the building, Mr. Eric Hohn gave us the following information from the Board of Education meetings.

November 25, 1977:

Vern Nordin, Maintenance Superintendent, attended the meeting to discuss with the Board of Education the proposed purchase of the Armena School by Mr. Bernard Fossen. Mr. Nordin reported that he had inspected the school with Mr. Fossen and reached the conclusion that the heating system could not be recommended for use in its present state. The intention of the purchaser was to use the school, after renovation, as a home for trainable, mentally handicapped and dependent handicapped children. Extensive renovations would be required in order to make this building suitable as a home. The sewer system is also unsatisfactory as there is no disposal field. The Board discussed the following items with regard to the sale of this building:

(1) Approval from the Department of Education for sale thereof,

- (2) Fair market value of the school building, and
- (3) The Board's commitment to the Armena Community regarding the disposal of this school building.

Mr. Bernard Fossen attended the meeting to discuss with the Board the purchase of the Armena School. Mr. Fossen indicated that he and his wife had been interested in such a project for some time. The Department of Health and Social Welfare were also interested in Mr. Fossen's project to establish a home for handicapped children. Mr. Fossen stated that the purchase of the building, renovation, and operation of the home would be his own responsibility. The Department of Health and Social Development would then place in his home handicapped children that were wards of the government. Some of the children would most likely attend regular schools in the County. Mr. Fossen also stated that the accommodation of this building would likely be limited to about six extra children besides his own family. If the project goes ahead, Mr. Fossen indicated that he and his wife would be in attendance at all times and he would not continue in his present employment. The proposed home would not be considered as an Educational Institution and the children that would be located there would stay with them until such time as the Department of Health and Social Development placed these children in other situations. In answer to a question from the Board, Mr. Fossen stated that he would not consider a lease due to the extensive renovations that would be required.

A. Adams — That (1) the Board of Education call a Public Meeting in the Armena area to assess the feelings of the residents in the Armena attendance area with regard to the possible sale of the Armena School, (2) the Administration be requested to obtain a reaction from the Department of Education re the possible sale of the Armena School and also obtain from the Department of Education the minimum or the maximum sale price that would be approved by the Minister of Education.
December 22, 1977:

The Secretary-Treasurer reported on developments since the November meeting relative to the possible sale of the Armena School. Mrs. Peddicord, a Department of Education official, was consulted, and had stated that the property could be sold to a non-profit organization for \$1.00 with Ministerial Approval.

However, if it was sold to any other organization, company or individual, the sale would have to be carried out as outlined in Section 93 of the School Act. Mrs. Peddicord felt that the Department of Education may give special consideration of a sale to Mr.

Fossen because of the use to which he proposed to put the building.

It was also brought to the Board's attention that Council had received a subdivision application which, if approved, would create 50 to 60 parcels in Armena which could greatly affect the number of school-aged children resident in the Armena area. A factor also deemed worthy of consideration was the comparative cost of new construction at Hay Lakes compared to renovation costs at the Armena School.

A. Adams — That the Board of Education do not consider the sale of the Armena School at this time in view of the possibility of a new sub-division being created.

December 17 & 18, 1979:

Discussion ensued as to how the matter of the disposal of the Armena and Ferintosh Schools could best be dealt with. The Board was advised that Department of Education officials had indicated informally at the recent A.S.T.A. Convention that they would have no objections to the disposal of these two schools, providing Ministerial Approval was received and a caveat was placed against the title giving the County first right of refusal.

L. Coykendall — That action with respect to the disposal of the Armena School be deferred at this time in view of the proposals received recently by the Board for possible re-opening of the school.
January 30, 1980:

Centra Cam Cleaning Association, by letter dated December 17, 1979, advised that their board felt that the Armena School would not be a suitable location for their proposed vocational training centre. The letter was treated as information.
July 25, 1980:

Dr. E. K. Hauksworth, Deputy Minister, Alberta Education, also advised that Ministerial Approval had been given to the County of Camrose to dispose of the Armena School by re-designation of the school from an instructional facility to a storage facility.
May 28, 1981:

The Building and Planning Committee advised that it was the Committee's recommendation that the Armena School and an adjoining area containing approximately .739 acres be offered for sale.

G. MacDonald — That the Board of Education concur with the recommendation of the Building and Planning Committee with respect to the offering for sale of the Armena School and of an adjoining area containing approximately .739 acres.

Discussion ensued with respect to what should be done with the remainder of the Armena School Property. A suggestion was made to enter into a ten-year lease with the Armena Athletic Association at \$1.00

per year. Some concern was expressed with respect to the length of the lease.

V. McNeight — That the Board of Education lease the remainder of the Armena School Property to the Armena Athletic Association for three years at a rate of \$1.00 per year.

June 25, 1981:

Tenders received for the sale of the Armena School and Property were presented to the Board as follows:

Patricia and Cyril O'Brien \$15,000.00
Armena Athletic Association \$ 1.00

Note: Patricia and Cyril O'Brien were an elderly couple who planned to convey the school into a type of "Home-Library" Combination. Apparently they had a large number of books.

Appraisals on the building and property were received as follows:

Central Agencies \$35,000.00
Drieger Agencies \$26,000.00

Discussion ensued.

L. Coykendall — That all tenders be rejected as being too low.

L. Coykendall — That the Building and Property be leased to the Armena Athletic Association for a period of ten years for the sum of \$1.00 per year.
Motion Withdrawn.

Concern was expressed by a Board Member as to the maintenance of the Building and Property if it was to be leased to the Armena Recreation Association. It was noted that in the case of the Ferintosh School, the Village of Ferintosh assumed the responsibility for the maintenance of the building.

L. Coykendall — That the Armena Athletic Association be invited to attend the next regular Board of Education meeting with a presentation of a proposal for the use, maintenance and upkeep of the building by that Association.

July 30, 1981:

Mr. Doug Lyseng, representing the Armena Athletic Association, attended the meeting to discuss with the Board, the possible purchase or lease of the Armena School. Mr. Lyseng indicated that the Association which has been registered as a society, would like to lease the school and grounds on a long-term basis. Mr. Lyseng indicated that the Multi-Cultural Recreation Grant format requires, as a condition, that the land must be owned or be available for recreational purposes for a substantial length of time. Mr. Lyseng indicated that the Association proposed that the school building be used by the Scouts and other organizations within the area, as a Craft Centre, possibly also as a racket ball court, and as a Senior Citizens' Centre. Approximately \$24,000.00 was available to the Association under the MCR grant

program, with an additional possible \$12,000.00 being available from the New Horizons Grant Program. Mr. Lyseng was advised that the Board of Education at its May 28, 1981 meeting had agreed to lease the grounds to the Association for three years. In answer to a question, Mr. Lyseng indicated to the Board that the initial attempt to use the school by the then Athletic Association failed due to the high costs of operation and maintenance of the building experienced at that time. He also indicated that if a new heating system were installed, it would be installed in such a manner as to serve the whole school building. Development and renovation of the building would be on a room-by-room basis. Mr. Lyseng also indicated that the society is very active in that community. A question was asked as to how the group intended to raise money to obtain the matching MCR grant. Mr. Lyseng replied that the matching grant would be in the form of volunteer labor for the most part. A question arose as to whether or not ownership of this particular property by the society was necessary since the property is already owned by the County of Camrose, and in the final analysis, the County will have to enter into a dissolution agreement with the Armena Athletic Association for the operation of the facility in the event that the society disbands.

L. Coykendall — That this matter be tabled to a future meeting, pending receipt of further information from the Armena Athletic Association regarding the matter of whether or not ownership of land by the Armena Athletic Association was required before MCR grants could be obtained by that association.

Armena Home and School

The Home and School Association was active in the Armena School for a few years. The parents and teachers cooperated in the various ventures which would benefit the children of our school. Interesting and informative programs were planned for monthly meetings. Delegates to the annual conventions



Armena School, Mr. Lawes, teacher.

brought back challenging suggestions to be followed by this group.

Special programs sponsored by this group aided Home and School projects financially.

The many students who graduated from Armena School were honored at a banquet and were recipients of a gift of an Armena School pin.

Due to lack of interest after a few years, the Home and School Association was disbanded.



Armena School, Mr. Lehmann, teacher.



Armena School, Mr. Lehmann, teacher.



Armena Pupils, Olive Thronson, the teacher Grades three, four, and five.



Grade II, 1953-1954. Armena School pupils, Norma Pederson (teacher). Top Row: Wendy Moore, Carol Greenwood, Peter Sware, Ronald Nordin, Wayne Cardiff, Reggie Galenza, Rita Wenig, Sandra Soderstrom. Second Row: Brian Moore, Bill Bowes, Ferne Thronson, Bonnie Logan, Norma Lemke, Wayne Olafson, Michael Blink. Bottom Row: Bill Atema, Bill Stollery, Merrill Stavne, Jimmy Welda, Blaine Paulson.



Laura Berg and Grades IV, V, and VI, Armena School.



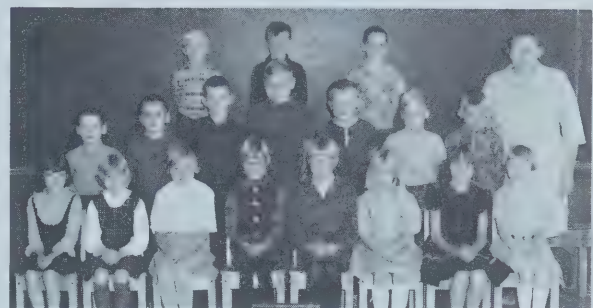
Armena pupils Grades V and VI, 1954-1955, Nancy Knaut (teacher). Back Row: Arthur Welda, Dennis Logan, Martin Severson, Marvin Klein, Willie Wensel, Janice Walters, Eileen Smithson, Lila Smithson, Nolan Lyseng, Lorenz Wenig. Middle Row: Elizabeth Stollery, Marion Palm, Sandra Thronson, Susan Welda, Patsy Prichard, Marjorie Logan, Janice Atema, Sandra Bowtell, Karen Grue, Eleanor Tchir. Front Row: Kenneth Klein, Gordon Budd, Mark Grue, Gordon Olson, Malcolm Lyseng, Gary Lyseng, Glen Grue, Keith Klein.



Armena Pupils Grades III and IV, 1953-1954, Avis Lyseng (teacher). Back Row: Sandra Bowtell, Shirley Moore, Everett Walters, Arthur Welda, Dennis Logan, Lila Smithson, Sandra Thordson, Karen Grue. Middle Row: Kenneth Klein, Sharon Prichard, Donna Lyseng, Marion Palm, Lee Smithson, Janice Atema, Betty-Ann Lehmann, Eleanor Tchir, Keith Klein. Front Row: Douglas Paulson, Mark Grue, David Hendrickson, David Christenson, Orrin Lyseng, Merton Moore, Kenny Rasmussen.



Armena pupils, 1952-1953.



Armena pupils, Grades III and IV, 1967-1968. Mary Grue — teacher.

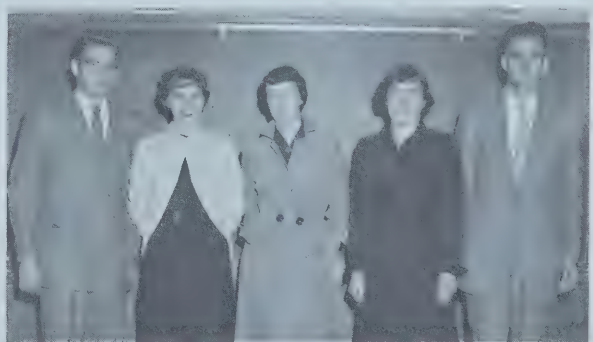
Grade I Armena School Pupils, 1952-1953, Mrs. Greenwood (teacher). Top Row: Wayne Cardiff, Sandra Soderstrom, Reggie Galenza, Kay Lyseng, Linda Skaret, Karen Olson, Linda Wenig, Dale Grue. Second Row: Bonnie Logan, Nola Henschel, Wendy Moore, Rita Wenig, Bonnie Erickson, Carol Olson, Marlene Selin. Bottom Row: Bill Stollery, David Grue, Tom Stollery, Stanley Tchir, Jimmy Welda, Peter Sware, Bill Atema.



Armena pupils, Grades V and VI, 1965-1966. Mrs. McNary, teacher.



Armena teachers 1956-1957. Left to Right: Miss Pederson, Mr. Youngberg, Miss Haukedahl, Mr. Lehmann, Miss Roose.



Armena teachers 1954-1955. Left to Right: Mr. Youngberg, Miss Young, Miss Pederson, Mr. Lehmann.

Family Histories

Ingri Movold Alexander

by Ingri Movold Alexander

Shortly after their marriage in 1881, Ingri (Sather) and Ole Tavissen Movold left their native homeland, Norway, and immigrated to Minnesota in the United States. Joining them, on their journey across the ocean, were some of Ole's brothers. While living in Minnesota, Ole and Ingri had a son, Tommy. Ingri passed away shortly after the birth.

In 1894, after Ole had married Gea Grue, the pioneers moved north to the good rich land in the Canadian Territories, to what would later be known as Alberta. After living there for a time, Gea decided she wanted to move south to Georgia. They lived in Georgia for about two years, during which time Inga and Oscar were born.

Because of the Georgia heat, the family returned to Alberta where Ole took out a claim on a homestead. Arthur, Lena, Amanda, Martin, and the twins, Gilbert (known as Shorty) and Clifford (known as Fatty), were born on this homestead.



Aunt Lena and Ida, Daddy, Mother and Rosely, Grannie and Ingri, Eileen and Thomas, Jimmy and Mansa, 1930.

Ole later became a naturalized citizen of Canada. Since Tommy, his first son, was born outside of Canada, he was automatically naturalized at the same time. Ole passed away around the year 1916.

After Ole's death, Gea married Hustaad and they moved to Edberg. Hustaad, however, was no farmer so Tommy and his brothers farmed the land for him.

In the early 1900's, Anna Almgren, a school teacher, emigrated from Sweden to the Armena-Camrose area. Anna was an aunt of a Mrs. Philemon Petri of Denmark. The war of Europe (1914) was forming and the Petri family could see that eventually Denmark would be involved. Since the Petris had only two sons, both the right age for the army, they sent them, Hendrick and Arvid, and a daughter, Ruth, to Aunt Almgren's home in Canada. It wasn't long, however, before Canada was involved in World War I, so, back went the young people to Denmark.

While the Petri children were in the "New Land", Ruth had met the Movold family, the oldest being an eligible bachelor. When the war was over Ruth convinced her father to let her return to Canada. Hendrick and Arvid had also gotten the bite of the pioneering but while in the "New Land". The three



Far left: Hendrick Petri before leaving to return to Denmark with his brother, Arvid, and sister, Ruth (Mrs. Tommy Movold).

of them made their third boat trip across the ocean. The only English the trio knew was what was taught to them in school. They came immediately to Armena where Ruth married Tommy Movold. The newlyweds made their home on his homestead, which is now the Peterson farm, located just north of Armena.

My mother, Ruth, who had just come out of finishing school and work in a millinery shop, was used to maids and concerts and escorts. The life on a farm in a new land, at that time, had to have been very hard for her.



Our first look at the old house since it has been sided and remodelled. Tommy Movold's later Adolph Peterson's.

Two premature babies were born and died (and buried under some big spruce trees behind the house) before Vera Eileen was born, in 1922. She came into this world with the help of a mid-wife in a room back of the Armena General Store.

Eileen turned out to be a roamer and when she was about three years old, she got herself good and lost. When she wasn't found anywhere around the farmstead by late afternoon, the alarm was spread to the neighbors. Through the rest of the afternoon and most of the night, neighbors gathered to search for Eileen. Under the direction of the Alberta Provincial Police, who organized the search, men set out in every direction, walking at arms length apart through fields and bush, even wading through the sloughs. In the early morning Eileen was found, about a mile north-east, on Bert Lomnes' north quarter. She was fast asleep on her dress, which she had taken off and spread on the ground. Except for the severe mosquito bites, Eileen survived the ordeal unhurt.

On the first day of spring, a cold blustery day, in March 1924, a baby girl was born to Tommy and Ruth Movold. Dr. Norby had been brought from Camrose to the log house on the farm to deliver the squalling baby that immediately turned blue from the lack of breathing and the cold. It was very doubtful that she would live. Since all good farm houses always had a fire going in the kitchen stove, the

doctor wrapped the baby in blankets and put her in the oven.

The doctor, being "official and efficient", had to record the birth, dead or alive. The child had to have a name. Tommy, since his mother had died shortly after his birth, named her Ingri, for his mother. It was, according to Tommy, a good Norwegian name. Ruth, not to be out done, stated the baby should also have her mother's name as it was a good Swedish name. I was, supposedly, recorded as Ingri Britta Movold.

To the surprise and joy of both the parents and the doctor, I squirmed and cried in the oven; pink beginning to show on my skin. My father decided, right then and there, that if a name was good enough to die with, it was also good enough to live with! No one suspected then that, until I eventually married, I would struggle through many years of spelling, and explaining my name.

In 1928 much to the disgust of Eileen and myself, a healthy baby boy, Thomas Arvid was born.

When I married, it was to a man from Saskatchewan. He was Irish and, since there were no Scandinavians around his home, he could neither pronounce nor spell my name, Ingri. He called me "Peggy". To this day, everyone, even the bank manager, knows me by my nickname. I have to sign my name twice on everything official.

What do I remember of those early days? The coal-oil lamps with glass chimneys to clean; the "fancy high-test gas lamps in the parlor; carrying wood in our arms to pile beside the stove, and if you didn't pile enough to last all day you'd have to go out for more; carrying pails of drinking water from the soft-water well; milking cows by hand and turning the cream separator just fast enough so the cream wouldn't be too thin or too thick; picking and eating wild berries, always keeping a watchful eye over your shoulder lest the "bears or Indians" jump out after you. We never did figure out, when we were young, that that was just a scare story to keep us close to home.

I remember the "dust storms" in the early thirties. We had to walk home from school with scarves tied around our faces. Mother would complain that the dust was on and in everything.

I remember my first day at school. I had crisp sandwiches, my choice, packed in a peanut butter pail that had two holes punched in the side for the improvised wire handle. Later we got the pails, with handles already on, from the store. To make it possible to pry off the tight lids, the new pails had handles that came off easily. My favorite lunch was always meat sandwiches, even when they'd freeze in the winter. Mr. Lomnes, the teacher, would let us put our

pails close to the heater, those with meat sandwiches the closest. At school one of the first things we learned was how to spell the name of our school — THORDENSKJOLD.

In the fall, our favorite time was when the threshing gangs arrived. We would hurry home from school to “help”, which was really mostly watching. Oh, the excitement! There would be extra women in the kitchen, baking going on for days, long tables set up, dishes borrowed, and the extra hired men for the chores that still had to be done. There must have been “at least a hundred men to feed”. Well, in a child’s eye there were that many. Our favorite crew was always Carl Lyseng’s rig because he’d let us up in the cab of the steamer. We had to sit quietly (it was too noisy to hear much anyway), keep our feet out of the way, and our hands at our sides, out of any pockets, because when he said “MOVE”, it meant “right now”. I still remember seeing all the horses tied up and harness being repaired.



Movold's old barn built in 1894, picture taken in 1954.

My father was a horse-man rather than a cattle-man. Tommy Movold was very proud of his Hamiltonians (road horses). Being the main means of travel in those days, good horses were very important. Father also raised his own work horses, as did most of the farmers then, and would trade or sell them as the need arose. He also had enough cows for household use and we would sell cream weekly to the Hay Lakes Creamery for grocery money.

The machine shop, where the horse shoes were made, all the harness repaired, plus a multitude of other fix-it jobs, was a “no-no area” for us kids. How we loved to sneak in and look in awe at the huge bellows and fire pit, and tools on the wall, the anvil, and even the shoe-last for work boots.

I can remember Father telling us to put a piece of heavy cardboard inside our shoes, for inner soles, and then tie a piece of string around to hold the sole



Old barn in 1979.

on until he had time to fix them. We walked to school many times with extra string in our pockets, for when the one holding our shoes together broke. Sometimes we would get our shoes fixed at the machine shop, and, when Father had his way, we girls even had shoes made there. Mother would object because she thought girls should have finer shoes.

Eileen married Joe English and they had three sons Barry, George (Jordy), and Robin, and one daughter Janice. The boys are all working in various places in British Columbia and Janice has completed her schooling. Joe was killed in a plane crash. The road crew he was working with was being flown out of northern B.C. for the winter, when the plane plowed into a mountain during a snow storm. Eileen has since married Lew Reid. They own a Post Office, the only one from Creston to Boswell along the Kootenay Lake, and a “handy market”.

Tom and his wife, Rose, have two sons, Grant and Neil. They reside in Kitchener, Ontario.



Left Back: David and Roland Ransom, Kathleen Hawkins. Right Back: John and Donald Gordon Ransom. Seated: Louise “Ingrid” Mercer, Ingrid Movold Alexander (Mother), Benson Alexander (step-father), Sylvia Ransom.

Five of my seven children are married and they have given me eight grandchildren. My family is scattered from Kingston to Florida.

The Reverend Almgren Family

by Ruth Jasman

Rev. and Mrs. Almgren came from the United States and lived for some time in Wetaskiwin where Rev. Almgren served congregations in Wetaskiwin and Pigeon Lake areas. Later he also served part time in Fridhem congregation. Driving to Pigeon Lake for a service, Rev. Almgren was killed by a falling tree on February 19, 1906. After his death, Mrs. Almgren and their daughter, Lillie, moved to the Armena district and settled on the farm known later as the Dr. Billig quarter, SE 6-48-20-W4.



The Rev. and Mrs. Almgren.

Mrs. Almgren and Lillie had a cow, horse and some chickens and Lillie was the chore boy as well as helping her mother who was in poor health for some time. This horse Bess with buggy or cutter was their means of getting to church and also visiting neighbors. Lillie was a real horseback rider and this was enjoyed together with the neighbor's daughter, Ruth Pederson. Lillie was also musical and she and Ruth would sing in duets at various functions in the district. Lillie also played the organ and piano. Lillie and Ruth played basketball for the Armena team and would also join in the baseball games with the ball team.

Mrs. Almgren passed away in June 1922 and was buried in Fridhem Cemetery beside Rev. Almgren.



Ruth Pederson and Lillie Almgren.

After her mother's passing, Lillie went back to the U.S.A. for a visit with relatives. She then moved to Camrose where she was employed until April 5, 1924 when she married Robert Lawson (Bob). They lived in Camrose until November 1928, then moved to Wetaskiwin. In 1935 they moved to Powell River, British Columbia, where Bob worked in the pulp mill industry.

Two sons were born to this union. Clarence is married and is a crane operator for McMillan Bloodell and lives in Powell River. Gene is married and has two sons. They live in Burbank, California and Gene is a television technician and works mostly for sports in Hollywood.

Bob and Lillie still reside in Powell River.

Anne Hendrickson and Bersvend (Bennie) Anderson

written by Norma Anderson

Anne (Hendrickson) Anderson was born in South Dakota in 1894. At the age of seven years she moved with her parents, Gunnar O. and Martine (Lyseng) Hendrickson, brothers and sisters to Canada, settling in the (now) Armena district.

She received her early education in her home school, Thordenskjold, and later attended Camrose Lutheran College for three years. Having a desire to deepen her spiritual life, she spent two years at the Lutheran Bible School in Fargo, North Dakota. This led to teaching Vacation Bible School in various places, as she loved working with children and instructing them in the Christian faith. It was while teaching in the Bardo District that she met the young man that later became her husband.

In 1920 she served as Dean of girls at Camrose



Bennie Anderson family. Allan, Clifford, Bernice, Philip, Bennie and Anne.

Lutheran College from January until the end of June. By this time the romance which had begun earlier in Bardo was in full bloom and wedding preparations began. On June 30, 1920 Anne Hendrickson became the bride of Bersvend (Bennie) Anderson. They settled on Bennie's farm in Bardo where they farmed for thirty-seven years. Three sons Phillip, Clifford and Allen were born to Anne and Bennie and one foster daughter Bernice became a part of their family.

Bernice married Marvin Johnson and they live at Winterburn, Alberta. They have one son Dennis.

Philip married Norma Haugland and lives on the family farm near Tofield. They have two daughters, Faye and Sandra, and one son Bruce.

Clifford married Doris Axelson and lives at Tilly, Alberta. They have two daughters Clarice and Ardis and one son Roger.

Allen married Irene Rudd and lives in Anaheim, California. They have three daughters Beverly, Carol and Sharon, and one son Bradley.

There was always a large household at the Andersons, including hired help. The whole family was active in community and church affairs. Although Anne was not an R.N., she loved caring for the sick and helped out in many homes where nursing care was necessary. She often took sick children to her home to care for them. As a young girl, Anne committed her life to God and He continues to have first place in her life. She has been very active in the local congregation, Lutheran Church Women and the Sunday School work (where she taught for thirty-five years). She was also an active member in the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Anne and Bennie's life on the farm came to an end in 1957 when Bennie suffered a heart attack. They moved to Delta, B.C. with the intention of spending their retirement years there. After a year, Bennie passed away and Anne returned to Alberta.

She is presently a resident at the Tofield Senior Citizens' Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson

by Lavern M. Nesvold

The Carl J. Anderson family was another early pioneer family in Alberta. Carl J. Anderson was born in Sweden on April 20, 1843. His wife, Karen Pearson, was born in Sweden as well on October 28, 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson with their three oldest children immigrated to America in 1883 settling near Worthington, Minnesota where they remained until 1902. While in Minnesota their family was increased by the birth of three more children. In 1902 Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and family came to Alberta buying land ten miles north of Camrose and establishing a



Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson.

home on N.W. 1/4-9-48-20-W4. As pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were interested in developing a sound Christian community. Although busy with farm work they took time to lay the foundation for the Fridhem congregation by giving the land for the church site, parsonage and cemetery. In 1905 work was begun on



The original Carl J. Anderson home — address — Pretty Hill, Alberta, Canada.

the church building itself. Mrs. Carl J. Anderson drove with horse and buggy through the country to various homes, collecting money for the church and arousing interest in the congregation. Before the church was finished Pastor Almgren confirmed a class of four girls and three boys. One of these boys was Carl August Anderson, the youngest member of the Carl J. Anderson family. This interest in the church and the community together with the demands of farming in those early years gave Carl J. and his wife Karen a satisfying and fulfilled life in a new country. After the marriage of their son Carl in 1914 they established a second home, a quarter of a mile west of their original homestead where they lived until their death. Mrs. Carl J. Anderson died on September 19, 1921 and Mr. Carl J. Anderson on August 2, 1922 and both were buried in the Fridhem cemetery.

Carl August Anderson by Lavern M. Nesvold

Carl August Anderson was born October 19, 1890 in Worthington, Minnesota. In April of 1902, at the age of eleven he came to Alberta with his parents



Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Anderson, October 7, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson. He worked together with his father on their homestead helping to establish a home. He continued to live and farm on this same farm for over fifty years. On October 7, 1914 he married Grace Cecelia Rasmussen who had come to the same district in April of 1911. This union was blessed with four children; Lavern Merdell was born on September 30, 1917, Irene Louise on November 2, 1920, Philip Gordon on July 5, 1925 and Marie Maxine on December 18, 1929. Life was not easy for these pioneer families but Carl and Cecelia worked long hours at home raising their family and keeping up the work on the farm. However, they both found time to become involved in the work of the community and supported the Fridhem church in a significant way. Carl was a charter member of the church, Cecelia played the organ for over forty years and the four children were baptized and confirmed in the church. Carl had many interesting stories to relate to their long trips to Wetaskiwin with a team of horses and a wagon for supplies and mail going down one day, staying over, and returning home the next day. They forded the river in the Gwynne valley when the water was so high they had to chain the wagon box to keep it from floating away. On October of 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson moved into a new home in Camrose just after celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Carl enjoyed five years of retirement and passed away on December 29, 1969 at the age of seventy-one. Cecilia continues to live in the same home at the present time and continues to enjoy good health and her family.

Lavern Merdell Anderson attended Lyseng School as did the other members of the Anderson Family. Lavern went on to take her High School education at Dinant and Camrose Lutheran College. She attended Camrose Normal School in 1937-38 and was therefore a member of the last class to graduate from that school. Lavern began teaching in September of 1938 at the Dinant Elementary School where she taught for three years. In September of 1941 she began teaching at Lyseng School. On October 11, 1941 Lavern married C. Gilbert Nesvold.

Irene Louise Anderson and Pastor Reuben Paul Kron were married May 3, 1942 at the Fridhem church. They lived in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan until 1945 when they accepted a call to the Grace Lutheran church in Osage City, Kansas. Their son, Reuben Paul Kron Jr., was born in Shaunavon on January 1, 1944. He was the first baby registered in the province of Saskatchewan that year. When he was two and one half months old the move was made to Osage City, Kansas. Their daughter, Grace Esther Kron was born in Emporia, Kansas on September 24, 1947. In 1948 they moved to Malmo, Nebraska



Carl A. Anderson home.

where Reuben was Pastor for thirteen years at the Edensburg Lutheran church. In 1961 they moved to Ansonia, Connecticut to serve the St. Paul's Lutheran church there.

After Reuben Paul Jr. graduated from High School he enlisted in the Marine Corp. While in the marines he was in the Intelligence Corp and stationed in Italy, Spain and Viet Nam. After four and a half years in the service he worked for a year and then went to Rock Island, Illinois to attend Augustana College. He planned to study for the Ministry but before he reached this goal he was killed in a motorcycle accident. He was twenty-seven years old at the time.

Reuben and Irene's daughter Grace married Robert Jordon in 1955. They lived in New Jersey where her husband had a locksmithing business and there their two sons, David and Daniel were born. Grace passed away at the age of twenty-eight.

Pastor Kron has now retired from the ministry and in 1972 he and Irene moved to Tuscon, Arizona where they live at the present.

Philip Gordon Anderson

by Lavern M. Nesvold

Phil farmed together with his Dad for about thirty years. He bought his first quarter (S.W. 15-48-20) from his Dad's sisters, Hanna, Clara and Ida when he was twenty-one years old. He thrived on playing both ball and hockey and vividly recalls using the Eaton's catalogue for shin pads and watching his Dad sharpen his skates once a year with a file. He enjoyed playing trumpet with the Dinant Band and remembers winning first prize in the Camrose Fair Parade. The band was pleased as well to be invited to play in the Calgary Stampede Parade several times.

Phil and Doris (daughter of George and Madga Hendrickson) were married in 1953 and lived in Kingman for four months where Doris was teaching Home Economics. They moved back to the home

place in the spring of 1954 where Phil continued farming and working in the oil patch. In the fall of 1965 they moved into Camrose.

Phil and Doris have three children. Duke, Wanda and David. Duke married Lynne Erickson in 1979 and is an engineer with an oil company. They have one daughter Stacy and presently live in Edmonton. Wanda is studying Architecture at the University of Waterloo in Ontario and David is enrolled in engineering at the University of Alberta.

Marie Maxine Anderson graduated from the Camrose Lutheran College in 1947 after which she worked for Alberta Government Telephones in Camrose for four years. In January of 1952 Marie married Mark de Grace who was with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at that time. They lived in Camrose until 1954 when they moved to Picture Butte. After spending five years at Picture Butte they moved to Calgary in 1959. Marie and Mark have four children, Michelle, Cheryl, Kathryn and Robert. Cheryl has lived in Vancouver for five years and the other three are working and settled in Calgary. Marie and Mark continue to make their home in Calgary as well.

Gustaf Anderson Family

submitted by Viola (McKinnon) Erickson

Gustaf Anderson was born in Narke, Sweden October 14, 1854. His trade was as a harness-maker and shoemaker. In October, 1875 he married Kristina Olafsdotter, born in March, 1848.

In 1886 they emigrated to Del Rapids. Their children were Alfred, Olaf, Anna, Victor, Emma, Alma, and Hilma.

The family moved to Alberta, Canada in 1901. They homesteaded north-west of Camrose on the SE ¼ 31-47-20 W4 and farmed and built their home on



About 1917. Left to Right: Mrs. Gust Anderson, Gust Anderson, Elizabeth Olson (teacher).



Gust Anderson family. Alfred, Annie, Victor, Ole, Alma, Hilma, Mother and Dad.

the SE 32-47-20. They lived there until 1912 when they moved to Camrose where Gustaf was employed in a hardware store for a number of years. They retired in 1938 to live in their daughter's home in Armena. Gustaf passed away in 1943 at the age of eighty-nine years and his wife, Kristina, lived to the ripe old age of ninety-seven years and four months. They are both laid to rest in the Fridhem Cemetery.

During their life-time, this respected couple had the distinction of celebrating their Fiftieth, Sixtieth, and Sixty-fifth Anniversaries. Messages of congratulations were received from King George V and Queen Elizabeth as well as other dignitaries.

The Alfred Anderson Family submitted by Wilfred Anderson

John Alfred, eldest son of Gustaf and Kristina Anderson, was born December 10, 1875 at Narke, Sweden. In 1886, at twelve years of age, he came with his parents to the United States. In 1901 the family moved to the Armena district in the North West Territories, an area then known as the Pretty Hill community. He homesteaded the SW ¼ of section 6-48-20 W4 in 1903.

Alfred Anderson married Andrea Serine Moe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Moe. Andrea was born on March 19, 1886. They were married in a lovely outdoor wedding on June 20, 1906 at the Anderson home.



Alfred and Andrea Anderson's wedding, June 20, 1906.

For a number of years they farmed in the Armena area. During that time Alfred was an active member of the Pretty Hill Band. For a few years he operated the Armena store which he bought from Ted Walkemeyer and later sold out to Mr. Gurley.

They had a family of twelve children, Roy, Mildred, Constance, Wilfred, Olga, Caroline, twins Edwin and Evelyn, Arnt, Wallace, Donald and Doreen. All were born at Armena except Donald and Doreen.



Alfred and Andrea Anderson family. Roy, Wilfred, Wallace, Mildred, Olga, Connie, Donald, Edwin, Arnt (standing). Alfred, Evelyn, Doreen, Caroline, Andrea.

In 1922, the store was destroyed by fire and in 1923 John Walker built a new store.

After selling the store, the family moved to a farm north of Armena (called the Hills). The children attended several schools, depending on where they lived. The various schools were Lyseng, Thordenskjold, Busk, and Swan Hill.

They moved to Donalda, Alberta in 1925 where they farmed and also operated a country store.

Alfred and Andrea Anderson had the joy of celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary at the home of their daughter, Connie Odegaard, in 1956.

Alfred passed away December 2, 1956 and was laid to rest in the Bethany Cemetery north of Donalda. Andrea passed away at the Bethany Home in Camrose on February 21, 1972 at the age of eighty-five years. She is buried beside her husband in the Bethany Cemetery.

Bengt August Anderson

Bengt Anderson was born in Sweden on May 10, 1847. In his early manhood he immigrated to the United States. I do not know if his first marriage was in Sweden or upon his arrival in the United States, but two sons were born in this marriage; John on February 26, 1874 and Frank on May 3, 1876.



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Bengt Anderson in New York, March 11, 1882.

Emily Sophia Person was born in Sweden on March 11, 1852.

On March 11, 1882 Bengt Anderson and Emily Person were married in New York, New York. They settled in Sura City, Iowa where four sons and two daughters were born; Edward on December 11, 1882, Walter on March 11, 1886, Marie on October 1, 1887, Otto on May 23, 1889, David on February 1, 1891, and Tillie on January 23, 1893.

In March of 1902, Mr. and Mrs. Bengt Anderson and family of eight children, arrived in Camrose and homesteaded on NE 10-48-20 W4. The first house they built burned down and they built a second large two-storey home, which also burned after they had sold the homestead.

In November of 1921, Mr. and Mrs. Bengt Anderson retired to Armstrong, British Columbia, with their interests centered around their home and garden.

John Anderson married Rose Shafranek. They had two children, Esther and Ruth. Rose died December 10, 1920 and their daughter died in the spring of 1921. They are buried in the Camrose Cemetery. John remarried and to this union were born August, Jimmy, Helen, and Gordon. The family lived at Grande Prairie, Alberta.



Homestead home of Mr. and Mrs. Bengt Anderson.

Frank married Sadie Corbett on July 11, 1909. They lived in Edmonton and had two daughters, Hazel and Evelyn. Frank died December 10, 1962.

Edward was married in Edmonton to Estelle Turnbull on April 10, 1904. They moved to the United States. They had a daughter Thelma and a son Raymond. Estelle died December 10, 1919. Edward died August 9, 1966.

Walter moved to the United States and married and made his home there. Walter died August 16, 1956.

Marie married Josh Blackburn of Armstrong, British Columbia. They had two children, David and Marjorie. Marie passed away November 17, 1963.

Otto married Sarah Isabel Ross of Armstrong, British Columbia on April 16, 1924. Sarah died on January 18, 1925 at New Westminster. Otto then went to the United States where he remarried and had two children, Paul and Inez. Otto died on August 8, 1965.

David married Ruth Agnes Johnson of Kingman on November 15, 1915. This was the first wedding in the Swedish Lutheran Church in Kingman. David worked in the mines at Dinant and farmed in the Kingman and Dinant districts. They also spent eleven years in Yakima, Washington. Two of their children died in infancy. Their son Vernon and his wife Isabel live in Calgary. They have two children, Beverly and David. Their daughter Lavern married Andrew Phillips of Edmonton. They have one daughter Marline. Lavern passed away in December of 1977. David passed away September 30, 1969. Agnes is a resident of Bethany Home, Camrose.



David, Vernon, Lavern, and Agnes Anderson.

Tillie married John Mickelson of Kingman on May 10, 1916. The wedding was performed in the home of Bengt Anderson. They first lived in Kingman and later in Deville where John worked as a section foreman. In 1919 they moved to the Dinant district and rented the farm from S. Carter. In June they bought SW 27-48-20 from the C.P.R. They bought a small house from a miner at Dinant. Later this was enlarged to become a cozy two-storey home. They had two children, Robert and Eileen. John passed away April 9, 1945. Tillie moved into Camrose in 1948 and bought a house where she lived until 1980. Tillie is a resident of the Bethany Home in Camrose.

The Andreason Brothers

Carl Andreason at one time owned two quarters of land, NE 32-47-21 and the NW 33-47-21. Later, his two brothers, Oscar and Harold, joined him, after having lived in the Ryley area. They built the house that is still part of the house that is presently being lived in. Oscar and Harold then bought the east quarter from Carl and they moved there, building a very small house.

These brothers lived rather quiet lives. They could be seen out walking and usually went to the Armena Store or to visit some of their neighbors. They always had Mrs. W. J. Moore churn butter for them.

In 1936, Carl sold his quarter of land to Thor Grahn and moved to Camrose. In 1944, Oscar and

Harold also sold their land to Mr. Grahn and moved to Camrose. In later years, they took up residence in Bethany Home and lived out the remainder of their lives there.

The Atema Family

My dad William was born in Leewarden, Holland in 1886. Mother was born in Amsterdam in 1889.

Dad left Holland when he was just eighteen years old and travelled to the United States. The next two years he worked his way almost across that country and then returned to Holland with the intention of marrying his fiancée, Sara Kinders. The plan was to reside in the old land, but after having tasted the good life of this continent, it being such a contrast to his homeland, he returned to the United States without his bride to be. She was reluctant to leave her family at that time.

In the next few years he learned the trade of house painter. Having maintained the romance during this time, he returned to Holland and brought his bride to the United States, first living in Minnesota. They moved through North Dakota and on to Winnipeg. Here Martha was born in 1912. Next they moved to Edmonton where I was born in 1915.

In 1919, for health reasons, dad decided to try



Sara and William Atema and Martha, 1914.



Sara Atema — genuine ostrich plume brought from India on her hat.

farming, although he had no experience at all. He bought land at Carvel and seemed to be getting fairly well established when, early in 1927, Martha developed a serious illness that left her totally paralyzed. Because she needed much medical attention we left the farm in the spring of 1927 and moved back to Edmonton. Martha recovered her sight and the use of one arm, but has been in a wheel chair ever since.

The urge to farm again took hold of dad and with some arm twisting by me he succumbed. After looking at land in all directions from Edmonton he chose this area for its stone free fertile soil, a far cry from the former farm. The land we settled on was NE¼ 26-48-21 and was homesteaded by Johan Oskar Grundberg, we can read their story elsewhere in this book.

Dad bought six horses, a wagon and some equipment in Edmonton and we drove out to our farm. It was spring break-up so it was rather a hectic trip and by the time we got there I already had misgivings about the venture. If we had misgivings in the spring certainly by fall it was confirmed. The great depression that began in 1929 had not affected farm prices till the summer of 1930 so that wheat that was selling for over a dollar a bushel that spring, had dropped to twenty-five cents that fall. Besides, the adverse har-



Sara and Martha Atema out for a buggy ride — 1933.

vesting conditions further lowered the prices of the grain because of its tough and damp condition. The pioneer era was considered over when we arrived but it seems we experienced our own particular version of it. For the next several years we lived a rather austere life.

Thinking back I realize our city cousins did not have it so great either during the depression, as many were on what was called relief (welfare today) but they still had their conveniences that we left behind, besides we had the extra burden of caring for Martha.

One of the few interests Martha developed was corresponding with pen pals, this meant almost daily trips to Armena for the mail winter or summer. Most of the time one could see mother and Martha wending their way by horse and buggy or cutter for the mail, and in bad weather it was me. These trips were not without incident. One one occasion they left home with team and cutter, shortly afterwards the team came galloping back home with the cutter intact but no mother or Martha. Dad and I did not spare the horses to locate them. About two miles from home we were quite relieved to find them O.K. In fact Martha thought it to be a fun experience. It appears they were flipped out of the cutter, blankets and all while maneuvering a snow bank.

I still wonder at times why mother ever agreed to move to the farm with Martha being in this extremely poor physical condition. It was indeed a hardship caring for her under such primitive conditions.

I might mention that all was not drudgery in those days, although we had no car in which to travel to a resort lake, we had a small lake adjoining our farm. It was called Arneson Lake named after an early homesteader. It was about the only body of water left as the arid conditions of those years had dried up most of the sloughs except those that were spring fed. It became a rather popular swimming spot. So as kids, this was one of the fun things to do during those hot summers.

These hard times created fertile ground for eco-



Martha Atema.

nomie change and upon the scene came a leader William Aberhardt, a very eloquent and influential speaker. He swept the Province with the new monetary theory of social credit and formed the government that was to last for many years. Our family was caught up with the excitement and dad was the president, of the local social credit group until he moved away. I succeeded him for awhile.

During the winter of 1939-40 Dad, Mother and Martha vacationed in Victoria, British Columbia. They enjoyed the milder climate and probably city life again, so they decided to move there. Shortly, they purchased an older home and later learned it was the birth place of the now famous painter and author, the late Emily Carr. The house today is a historical site and museum.

I then took over the farm. Batching was made quite tolerable when Sten Gunderson who was teaching at Swan Hill School moved in. He had a reputation for his culinary skill and sure proved it. That year our social life centered around the courtship of our future wives, so have fond memories of that time.

In June 1941, Ruby, daughter of Abel and Cora Lyseng, and I were married. We settled down to farming. Those were war years and we worked hard increasing production including "Bacon for Britain". Finally in 1944 I decided to mechanize somewhat. I bought an old two cylinder tractor. Driving that horrendous machine into the yard and while idling it backfired which was typical of those machines. Our dog, not at all used to the machine age, in



Birthday Party for Mrs. Atema, Sr.

a moment of terror dove through the screen door and into the house for protection. Looking at an old picture of the house I see a record of the temporary repair I apparently made.

In 1944 we were blessed with our first child, a baby girl, Janice.

Late in 1945 we got restless, had an auction sale and moved to Victoria. While living there our first son Bill was born. In 1947 we moved back to our farm — I guess city life wasn't that great.

In 1952 we were fortunate to have our farm fall within the boundaries of the Joarcam oilfield so with that little windfall life became easier.



Atema family 1982. L. R., Standing: Terry Grundberg, Troy Atema, Janice (Atema) Grundberg, Debbie holding Brendon, Fred Atema, Cindy and Russell Hansen, Elsie and Bill Atema with Jim in front. Seated, L.-R.: Ruby holding April Katrina Atema, Herman holding Robert Atema. Bottom Row: Paul Grundberg, Sari Atema, Jeff Grundberg.

In 1955 our second son Fred was born. We have continued to live here on the original farm but have been phasing out our operations and hope to retire within the next year or so. This land has been good to us. For the past several winters we have enjoyed spending some time in the south by the ocean and hope to enlarge on this in the future.

In 1969 Dad took ill with a terminal sickness so we moved them to Camrose to be near us. We had Martha admitted to Bethany Auxiliary Hospital, Camrose where she still resides. She is reasonably well and happy. Dad passed away in May 1970 at the age of eighty three years. That fall mother had the misfortune to fall and break her hip while staying here on the farm. She was eventually admitted to Bethany Sunset Home and then to the Auxiliary Hospital where she passed away in 1978 at age eighty nine. She was buried next to Dad in the Camrose Cemetery. I would like to express my admiration for the sacrifice Mother and Dad made in caring for Martha for forty two years when they might have put her in an institution.

After finishing high school Janice took a business course at McTavish in Edmonton. In 1963 she married Dean, son of Albert and Grace Hansen. They had two children, Russel and Cindy. Tragedy struck when Dean died of exposure on January 15, 1971 during one of the coldest days of that winter. He was buried in Camrose. Later she married Terry Grundberg. Coincidentally he is the grandson of the original homesteader of this land. Terry and Janice moved to Slave Lake where a son Paul was born. Later they moved a mobile home into our yard during which time another son Jeffry was born. They now live on their farm at Valleyview. Terry makes his living in the oilpatch and Janice is a bookkeeper in Valleyview.

William (Bill) took his final two years at the Composite High School in Camrose. He took carpentry and now has his own construction business. In 1967 he married Elsie daughter of Harold and Agnes Ovelson of Kingman. They have four children, Troy, Jim, Sarah, and April. In 1974 they built a cedar home on the shore of the small lake on our farm. We in the past years dredged a small part of the shore line and hauled sand so there is quite a nice private beach by their home. Our family have had much pleasure swimming and water skiing at which some have become quite adept. I still enjoy participating in the sport. Bill is now becoming involved in grain farming and it appears he will eventually take over the farm.

Our youngest son, Fred finished his high school at Camrose Composite. He then established his own oilfield tank truck service. In 1974 he married Deb-



Twenty fifth wedding anniversary of Herman and Ruby Atema, 1966. Dean and Janice (Atema) Hansen, Billy Atema, Herman, Ruby Atema, Fred (behind), Russell Hansen.

bie Grundberg. Incidentally she is the great granddaughter of the original homesteader of this farm. After living in Edmonton they moved into a mobile home in our yard. Here, daughter Katrina was born. Disposing of his business he went to work for a well head servicing company in Edmonton and in 1978 was transferred to Ft. St. John, British Columbia. He now has an interest in an oilfield supply firm. Since moving to Fort St. John two sons were born, Robert and Brendan.

With the coming and going of the generations I count this a distinct privilege to record some of my family's happenings in the stream of time.

Axel Axelson Family written by Cecilia Olson

Axel Axelson was born in Grums, Sweden, on May 24, 1891, and as a young man of eighteen years of age, immigrated to Alberta. He worked as a hired hand for various farmers, among them Ole Olson of the Pretty Hill District and for the Duggans of Camrose.

Axel Axelson and Agnes Forsen, born November 8, 1902 at Wilhelmina, Sweden, were married in 1924. They lived on the Duggan farm north of Camrose which was the original John Kubbernus homestead. In 1938, they moved to the James Walker farm in the Baldenstein District. Several of their family attended the Baldenstein School. It was while they lived here that their son Arnold met with an unfortunate farm accident and lost the sight of one eye.

Many in this district will remember Axel Axel-

son for his jovial nature and his humorous stories. He was also very helpful to friends and neighbors in times of need. Mrs. Axelson was an ambitious person and during World War II contributed many knitted articles to the war efforts. She was an active member of the Baldenstein Welfare Workers and served as President of this group for one term.

Shortly after the Axelsons had a farm sale on April 14, 1952, they moved to Camrose where Axel worked for a time as a plasterer. Their sons, however, had found occupations in Calgary so the family decided to make a move to Calgary also, a move to be near their sons.

Axel and Agnes Axelson celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1974.

Mr. Axelson was a patient in a Calgary Nursing Home for two years before he passed away on January 26, 1975 at the age of eighty-four years. Pastor James Rasmussen conducted the funeral. Mrs. Axelson resides in the Southwood Nursing Home in Calgary.

There were seven children in the Axelson family, William lives at Kelowna, B.C., where he operates a theatre, Fred works at construction in Calgary, Arnold works at construction in Calgary, Grace is now Mrs. John Brown and lives in Vancouver, B.C., Gordon is in construction work in Vancouver, B.C., Bernice lives in Calgary, and Kenneth works in a large department store in Edmonton.

Mr. Paul Arnt Berg

Mr. Paul Arnt Berg was born near Trondhjem, Norway on July 11, 1883. He came to Canada in 1906 as he had an uncle John Moe and family living at Armena, Alberta. Before coming to Alberta in his earlier years, Paul helped with the building of the large Dome's Kirke in Trondhjem, Norway.

At one time he owned a homestead in the Lundemo district. After selling this, he worked as a farm hand and a painter in Armena and vicinity.



Paul Berg splitting wood.

Paul played the cornet with the Maple Leaf Band in 1909 and on. He also enjoyed playing his violin.

His later years were spent in a house on the Simon Grue farm where he passed away May 18, 1962.

Paul J. Berg Family **submitted by Elmer Olson**

Paul J. Berg and family came to the Baldenstein District in 1906 or 1907. They had earlier owned some plateau land near Butte, Montana, U.S.A. and also lived in Calgary, Alberta for a time where they operated a hotel or rooming house.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berg in 1920.

On arriving in this area they purchased three quarters of land, the locations being NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 21-47-20 W4, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 28-47-20 W4, and the John Svenson homestead on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 28-47-20 W4. He selected the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 21-47-20 as his home location. The well-built frame house from John Svenson's homestead was moved to this location and an addition was built. An interesting item on this farm was a power windmill. It was used for pumping water, sawing wood, and grinding the grain. Mounted on this structure was a dinner bell, which could be heard throughout the neighborhood.

Paul Berg and his son, Jasper, managed a horse ranch for several years. In 1911, he had a horse auction sale. Even as a youngster, I vividly remember this sale. All the men had gathered in a semi-circle in

front of the barn. When the doors were opened one of the horses made a bee-line over the men and struck Henry Hendrickson on the side of the head. Henry was quickly brought to the house and bandaged.

In 1912, the Berg family moved to San Diego, California, U.S.A. Jasper, their son, joined the San Diego Police Force. I recall that he was a crack shot with his .22 rifle, and marvelled at how he brought down ducks on the wing. His sister, Myrtle, married Mr. Green.

The farm was rented to Lars E. Strid from the year of 1913 until the spring of 1919. During this time, much of the land was broken with horses, also custom breaking was done. Later he did much of the threshing in this area with his one-lunger Rumley tractor, 1915 or 1916 vintage.

Just prior to 1919, the Bergs returned to Camrose to manage their farm interests and town properties. From 1919 until 1922 the land had two separate renters, Mr. Davies and Carl Jacobson of Granum, Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Berg lived on the farm from 1922 until the spring of 1924 when they again moved to Camrose. From that time until 1947 there were many changes of renters; E. L. Fowler in 1924, Charpenter in 1925, Joseph Poeckens from 1926 to 1929, Gust Johnson from 1929 to 1932, the Smith family from 1932 to 1933, Clarence Magnuson from 1933 to 1938, and John Poeckens from 1938 to 1947.



Paul Berg farm, 1933.

August Boman acquired this land in 1947, the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 21-47-20 W4 and also the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 20-47-20 W4. Earl Nesvold purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 28-47-20 W4 from Mrs. Myrtle Green, daughter of Paul Berg.

Paul J. Berg passed away in February, 1925. After his death, his wife, Louise Berg, continued living in Camrose until her passing in the early forties. We regret we were unable to find a record of the exact date of her death.

Pastor Michael R. Bergman **Armena Lutheran Parish**

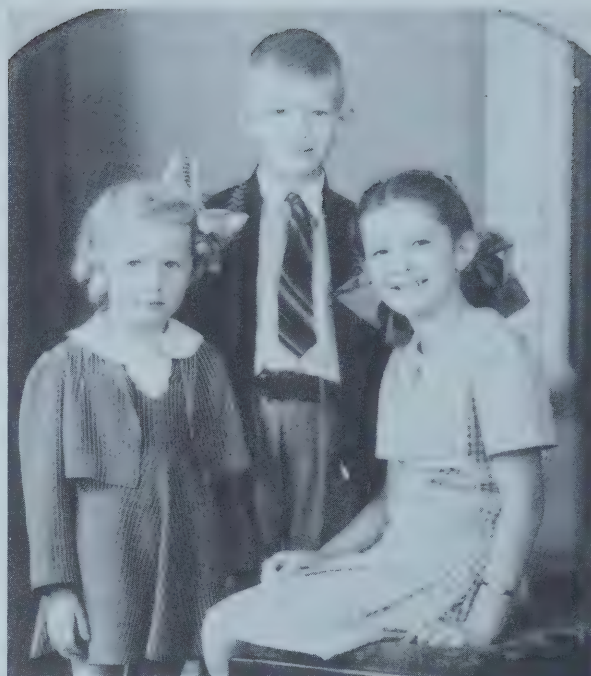
I am one of the most recent Scandinavian immigrants to the Armena district, arriving here in

September 1979. My hometown is Duluth, Minnesota, where my parents and sisters still reside. After living a quarter of a century on the shore of Lake Superior and canoeing and hiking the Canadian Shield of Northwestern Minnesota and Northern Ontario, life here in the parkland of Alberta certainly has called for adjustments in lifestyle. After attending Luther Theological Seminary, nestled in the sprawling metropolitan area of Saint Paul-Minneapolis, the quiet streets and rolling grain fields of Armena are a welcome and peaceful change. The people of Scandia and Saint Joseph Congregations have repeatedly informed me, "We've always considered Minnesota good enough to be part of Canada." I am happy, satisfied, and proud to live here sharing and celebrating Life with the people of Armena and Hay Lakes.

Pastor Carl Bernhardson

Dad served the parish of Fridhem together with Wilhelmina, Miquelon mission and was Dean of the Canadian Lutheran Bible School from 1938-1947. He had come from the Amisk parish which had been his first call after graduating from seminary. There are three children in our family Ioan (myself), Clem and Sonya.

Sometimes the family accompanied Dad on Sunday. I can remember the dirt roads that we travelled at an angle to the ditch instead of parallel to the ditches when they were wet. There always seemed to be sloughs on either side of the road and we would play guessing games about which one we would land in. I



Bernhardson children, Clem, Sonja, Ioan.

can't remember ever landing in a slough. Then there was the time that we hit the ditch on Christmas Day morning about seven o'clock. We were on the way to Wilhelmina so we were supposed to turn west at the point where the pavement now ends by Fred Coykendal's. I don't know how we got out or if we made it the rest of the way to church.

We children couldn't speak or understand Swedish and the service at Wilhelmina was in Swedish. Also, we had already had service at Fridhem earlier in the day, and we had to participate in some way. Dad told us the general pronunciation of letters in the Swedish hymnals with specific marks over them so we sang Swedish, not too softly either. We must have had the queerest pronunciation ever heard.

I remember seeing the church stamp at Fridhem with the address of Kingman, Alberta, not knowing where it was. Little did I realize that I would marry and we would raise our family on a farm close to Kingman.

Most of the time we lived in Camrose until the memorable summer when we moved to "the farm" which was the parsonage at Fridhem. When we moved into the parsonage all the walls had been freshly calcimined. It was too much for us kids to resist so we enjoyed writing on the walls of our bedrooms with wet fingers. I was so excited about going to Lyseng's School for a short time that I had to bring Clem to school one day (even though he wasn't school age) so he wouldn't miss the experience.

Then there was the episode with the bees. There



Pastor and Mrs. Bernhardson.

were bees in the wall or foundation of the house so it was decided to keep the workers away from the queen bee. Some apparatus was made so they could get out but not in again. Did they get mad! Our screens, doors and windows were covered with angry bees. This was the situation the day of the school picnic. Dad went flying out of the house to the car with swarms of bees for company. He got the car started and tore to the barn with the doors flapping open. When he brought the car back to the house we each flew out into the car. In later years honey was found in the walls of the house.

Our farm animals were chickens and a pet pig which we rode and scrubbed often. We were puzzled that he didn't want to stay clean after his scrub and always rolled in the dirt the first chance he got.

When Dad was dean of Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute we lived in Camrose and we attended school here. I am presently teaching at Chester Ronning School in Camrose, Clem is teaching at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, and Sonya is teaching at M. E. La Zerte Composite High School in Edmonton.

Fred Birtels Family

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Birtels and their daughter Violet came to Armena in July of 1944, when Mr. Birtels replaced Mr. M. H. Sproule as grain buyer at the U.G.G. elevator.

They lived in Armena until May 1950 when Mr. Birtels was transferred to Stettler. Melvin Pederson became the buyer in Armena for one year; after which Arvid Erickson took over the job.

In 1978 Mr. Birtels retired and he and Mrs. Birtels moved to Camrose where they resided until the passing of Mrs. Birtels in 1979. Mr. Birtels now resides in Edmonton.

Violet is married to Tom Coultis and they have two daughters. They live in Camrose where Tom owns and operates the Pipe and Paper shop. Violet is receptionist at Jones Chiropractic.

Edward and Dorothy Bieber

We were both born and raised at Ponoka, in the Crestomere District and were married in 1960. We rented land in the Crestomere District and drove the school bus. Our two oldest sons, Melvin and Gary, were born at Ponoka.

The four of us moved to Elk Point, in May of 1966, where we had bought five quarters of land. Our two youngest children, Brenda and Kenneth, were born there.

In 1977 we built a new house which we enjoyed until we bought the Paul Bjorgum farm in April of



Ed. Bieber family. Left to Right: Brenda, Dorothy, Edward, Kenny. Missing: Melvin and Gary — Elk Point.

1981. We had a very busy summer as we farmed the land at Elk Point as well as the land we bought here. After selling our farm at Elk Point, we moved here permanently, in September; in time to start Brenda and Kenneth in school at Hay Lakes.

Our oldest son, Melvin, stayed back at Elk Point to farm and work at the Windsor Salt Plant. Gary farmed with us this last summer but has gone back to Elk Point to work as a butcher for the winter at St. Paul Packers.

We have several relatives living here, one of them being Dorothy's sister, Clara Erga.

In moving to a new location, there are often exciting events which transpire and, with a chuckle, go down in history. One day a skunk was discovered trying to make its home under a granary. Since raising chickens was being planned, no predators were welcome! Dorothy called for help. Edward was filling the diesel tractor with fuel but came with the .22 rifle which he had difficulty in loading. The skunk came right for them. Edward gave him a kick but it still came back for more. Finally, the skunk just disappearing under the granery, Edward shouted, "Grab him by the tail"! Dorothy, being an obedient wife, immediately grabbed him by the tail and flung it in the distance. After another good kick from Edward, the skunk was dazed. A bullet put an end to the battle.

Like most wars, there are the after effects to deal with. It took several days and a lot of ingenuity and tomato juice to restore the pleasant farm atmosphere! Edward made it back to his tractor just as the fuel tank was beginning to overflow.

Mike (Maindert) Blink

Mike and a friend came to Canada from Holland in 1929. In April he got a job with Howard Adams at New Norway and stayed there for a year. He worked



Blink family, December 26, 1981.

in the New Norway and Wetaskiwin area until 1939 when he went south for two years. In 1941, Mike joined the Dutch Army in Ontario and went to England. Here he met Edith Hilton from Wolverhampton. They were married on December 26 of the same year.

Mike was in the army for five years before he returned to Canada in the spring of 1946. Edie joined her husband on December 2, 1946 and they worked at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Cole at New Norway. Edie says she thought it was very cold in Canada.

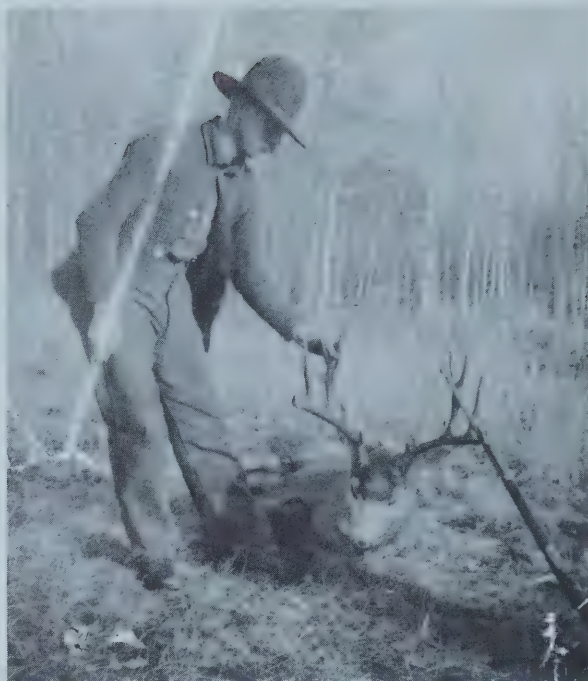
In March of 1947 they bought the NE 26-47-21 W4 from John Pasula and farmed there until August, 1965 when they sold out to Art Olafson and moved to Camrose. Mike and Edie were both employed at Rosehaven for many years.

Mike and Edie have one son, Michael, born on July 8, 1948. He attended Armena School, Hay Lakes and Camrose Composite High School. He completed his education at N A I T in Edmonton. He and his wife Cathy (Duggan) have two boys, William and Steven. Michael is Material Control Assistant Co-ordinator, Purchasing Department for Alberta Government Telephones in Edmonton.

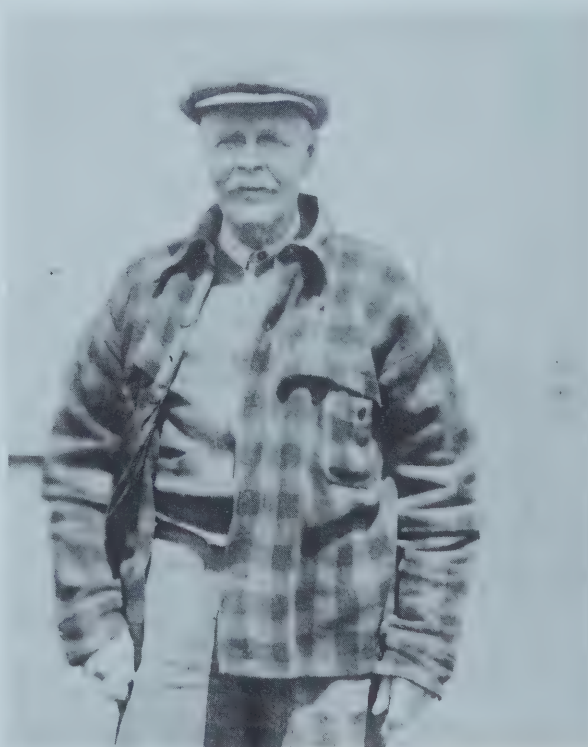
Theodore Bockey

He was born in Brookings, South Dakota in 1872 and grew up there, near the Thronson and Jornlin homesteads. As a young man he roamed as a farm worker throughout the western United States, in Colorado and eastern Washington, etc. He came to Canada in November of 1902. He was a cousin of the Thronson and lived on his farm in Canada a mile north of them for many years..

He loved to walk around the neighborhood and visit and talk of olden times. He read cowboy maga-



Theodore Bockey bagged a deer.



The happy homesteader — Theodore Bockey.

zines and identified with that way of life. In winter he wore Indian mocassins with gorgeous bead-work on the front and was a great favorite of the children. He was a gun man. He drove a Model T Ford converted into a truck.

Even though Bockey's one hand was maimed, he was able to clear one acre of his land each year with the axe and grub hoe.

One day he insisted on Nelvin Thronson cutting his hair. Nelvin had never cut hair before but yielded to his demands and gave him a hair cut. Bockey never came back for another hair cut.

He retired to Camrose where he lived in the Heather Brae Hotel. He died in 1947 and was buried in the Camrose Cemetery.

Andrew Boe and Sorine Bakken

Andrew Boe was born December 24, 1853 in Ramsdalen, Norway. In 1873 he came to the United States by sailing vessel, one of the last to ply the North Atlantic. He came to Wisconsin and married Sorine Bakken in 1880. She was born October 26, 1856 in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway and came with her parents to Black River Falls, Wisconsin in 1877. Shortly after their marriage in 1880 they moved to Grafton, North Dakota and settled on a farm. Their family was born there, and it was there that their first son Ralph died as an infant. Land was scarce there so after fifteen years they decided to move to Canada.

A years supply of provisions was packed: barrels of flour, beans, dried apples, a team and wagon and fifty cents cash was what they had when they arrived in the Pretty Hill district near Armena in November 1895. With them were their five children; Minnie, Carrie, Ralph, Ida and Alma — a baby of five months. They came via Calgary, by train to Wetaskiwin and by wagon to Armena where they settled on a homestead, NE-¼-1-48-21-W4. Mr. Boe helped to build the first Thordenskjold school. The first teacher was Mr. Gemmel who boarded at the Boes.

In 1898 the death of daughter Minnie from pneumonia caused Mr. Boe to cancel his plans to go to the Klondike gold Rush in Alaska. In 1899 the family moved northeast and settled on land near the Vermilion Lakes in what is now the Naughton Glen district near Morecombe, Alberta. With him he brought 100 heifers he had bought. Mrs. Boe and the children spent the winter in Armena where they were able to attend school and church. In 1901, after building up that farm, he sold the improvements and moved south and squatted on land along the Battleford Trail near what is now Mannville. Their land was later surveyed (NW-½-32-51-9-W4) and became their home — Fairview Ranch. They were the first settlers in the area. Their neighbors were the Indians. Of interest to the family were the pow-wows held near their ranch when the Hudson Bay traders came to buy the Indian's furs. Once or twice each year supplies were hauled by team from Wetaskiwin. Their home was a stopping place for new settlers

coming to the area, and a place to hold church services when the travelling Minister rode through.

As more land was bought and broken up less ranching and more farming was done. At Armena, Andrew Boe helped build a church and school. Soon the railroad came through and the town of Mannville was established. Mr. and Mrs. Boe continued to farm until in 1916 they sold their ranch to their son Ralph. In 1920 they retired to Mannville where they enjoyed good health for many years. Mrs. Boe died in August 1938 and Mr. Boe remained in his home until his death in September 1939. Neither one was ever in hospital.

The details of the Boe family are as follows: (all were born in North Dakota).

Ralph born in 1880 died as an infant in North Dakota.

Minnie born in 1883 died in 1898 at Armena, buried at Scandia Cemetery.

Carrie born in 1885 married John B. Burch in 1906. She died in Edmonton in 1969. She had six children.

Ralph born in 1890 married Maude Campbell in 1917. He died in Mannville in 1978. He had seven children.

Ida born in 1891, married R. John Shaw in 1915 and died in Edmonton in 1967. She had one son.

Alma born in 1895 married Ronald Scott in 1919. She died in Mannville in 1980. She had three children.

May God bless the memory of these men and women who pioneered this land of ours, and may He also bless their descendants. (This was written by Laverne (Boe) Gordon).

Ralph Boe Visits Old Friends at Armena

The following is a clipping, written by Mrs. Margaret Moore, from the Camrose Canadian, dated October 9, 1972.

ARMENA — Old memories were recalled and friends of yesteryear revisited when 82-year-old Ralph Boe of Manville returned to the district last weekend.

He and his daughter, LaVern and his son-in-law, Bob Gordon visited in the Norman Moe home, which is on the quarter that Mr. Boe's father homesteaded in 1895, coming from Graston in the Dakotas.

In the same year, Norman Moe's grandparents, the John Moes, former Graston neighbors, took up land nearby.

Mr. Grue also visited at Norman Moe's during the weekend. They recalled how the late Adolph Moe, Oscar Grue, and Ralph Boe were among the first students to attend the first Thordenskjold School,

built in 1898. This building is in use today as a garage on the Evert Grue farm.

Oscar Grue took the Boe party to see the old school building and also to the old Scandia Cemetery, west of Armena, on the Rolfe Welda farm. Here they sought out the grave of a sister, Minnie Boe. They then visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Olson in Camrose, where the following were on hand to greet them: Mr. and Mrs. Nels Grue, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Broen, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Prestlien.

Later in the evening Mr. Grue took the Manville visitors to see a former school chum, Simon Grue, who is confined to his home in Camrose at present.

August Boman Family

In 1904 Julius Boman left his native homeland Sweden, and journeyed alone to a new home in a new land. He took up farming at Lancaster, Minnesota, a place he would call home for more than twenty years.

In 1916 he married Rose Anderson, a local Lancaster girl. To this union six children were born, five in Minnesota and one after immigrating to Canada.

August Victor, their last child to be on American soil, was born on February 18, 1923 at Lancaster. Accompanying his parents, brother, and sisters, August left Minnesota and came to Canada. They first settled in 1927 at Vega, Alberta and moved to the Camrose area in 1944.

Frances Caroline, daughter of George and Alberta Carnegie, was born on September 22, 1927 at

Cardiff, Alberta. At the age of four years, she moved, along with her parents and brothers to Shoal Creek, Alberta where she later took all her schooling.

Frances and August first met in 1943 when both were at the wedding dance of a mutual friend. In January 1945, Frances moved to the Camrose North area where she lived with, and worked for, Ruby and Ray Frankson until her marriage later that year.

August and Frances were married on April 12, 1945 and like their parents before them took up farming. They lived one and one-half miles west of Camrose for two years before moving to a farm, formerly owned by a Mrs. Green, four miles north of town. Moving to his farm was truly an adventure in itself.

Plans had been made to make the move in February 1947, but, due to the many heavy snowfalls it wasn't accomplished until April 20. As it was, they still had their problems. Instead of being able to go straight north from where they lived, they had to travel all the way "around the block", going through Camrose. Because of the tremendous snow-banks and all the spring run-off from the melting snow, their longer route was only then made possible by the use of horses and a wagon.

Throughout the years many changes have been made to their farm. A new house was built in 1956 and a new, larger barn was erected in 1959, to accommodate their growing dairy herd. New machinery was bought to make the grain farming easier.

By this time both of August and Frances' daughters had been born, Ruth Caroline in 1946, and Delores Faye in 1952. Both girls made many friends and took all their schooling in Camrose before marrying and moving away.

In 1968 they purchased the NW ¼ 22-47-20 from Art MacKenzie. From 1957 to 1962 Mr. MacKenzie rented, for \$700.00 per year, a portion of the quarter of land to the City of Camrose for the purpose of an airport. The airport, consisting of thirty-two acres, had an airstrip 300 feet wide and about 2100 feet long, a hangar big enough to house two planes, and ample parking facilities. The Camrose Flying Society which came into being because of this airport sponsored many Fly-ins and a training program. By July 1961 the City of Camrose was considering the purchase of some land just north of the steel mill for a new, larger airport. The purchase was completed in February 1962 so, at that time, the Camrose Flying Society gave up its lease on the MacKenzie property. Mr. MacKenzie permitted many flyers to continue using his strip, during the following year, while the new airport was being prepared.

August and Frances still make their home in the



August Boman family, 1955. Francis, August, Delores, Ruth.

Camrose North area and they continue to grain farm and raise some beef cattle; their milking days however, are over. In 1975, after more than thirty years of dairying, they sold the herd. They have since been able to travel to many new places and hope to enjoy many more trips.

Ruth married Chester Teague of Edmonton in 1966. They reside in Edmonton where Ruth is employed by Alberta Government Telephones and Ches owns and operates Superior Printing. Ruth and Ches have two sons Scott, age fourteen, and Jason, age eleven.

Delores married Ron Miller of Camrose in 1971. They reside in Fox Creek, Alberta where Ron is employed by Chevron. Delores and Ron have one daughter, Michelle, age two.



Julius and Rose Boman's 50th Anniversary July, 1964.

Julius Boman passed away in August 1968 and his wife, Rose in December 1978.

Ken and Ruth Bowman

Ken and Ruth Bowman moved to Armena on May 1, 1976 and purchased the Don Nichols acreage. Ruth was employed as a registered nurse at Rosehaven. Ken worked for Trempler in New Sarepta and also spent some time in the oil fields. He was mainly concerned about building up his bulldozing business.

They have two children, Wayne and Wanda.

They sold their land in Armena to Mr. Quenlin and bought an acreage south of Round Hill where they continue to reside.

Dora (Campbell) Borgstrom

I, Dora Borgstrom, nee Campbell, finished out the 1940-1941 term of teaching in the Thordenskjold School, which was north-west of Armena. This was



Miss Dora Campbell, teacher at Thordenskjold School.

during World War Two and many of the men teachers had enlisted, thus some of the schools were banded together. I was sent from my school near Donald, to Thordenskjold, Armena, in October. There were 32 pupils at the time and the grades were from one to eight. Also the teacher was expected to do the janitor work. I boarded at the Lomnes home and walked the mile and a half to school. The road by the school was high graded in the fall and before it was gravelled the snow came, making it almost impassible when spring came. So I and most of the pupils had to walk inside the pasture fence, through the grass and trees to school. This was the last year for that building as a school. A new school had been built in Armena, and Thordenskjold was moved into Camrose to be used as the School Division Office. The name Thordenskjold was given to the Busk School which had been moved onto the Martin Hendrickson place with Mrs. Martin Hendrickson as the teacher.

One little exciting incident was when an airplane flew real low toward the school, so low it seemed on the level of the school roof. I and all the children rushed out to look, while it did some stunts for us, before flying on. I never did know who the pilot could have been, nor did the pupils.

Another memory is of entering the Music Festival in Camrose, and several of the pupils doing very well.

I now live near Ferintosh. I have three grown children. Two are teachers and one has her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. All are married and have children of their own.

The Robert Branton Family

by Robert Branton

My life began on a homestead consisting of a quarter section of bush and rock, in the Sunnybrook district. The first seventeen years of my life were spent helping older brothers and my father pick rocks and chop trees as we tried to make a living off the land. In winter, father would go away to work in the mines to help put bread on the table. After the war began, life around home changed. Three brothers and one sister left and went into the services. Two of my brothers never returned. After the war I left home and spent the next three and one-half years working on a ranch at Crossfield until shortly after the oil boom began in Leduc. I then got work with a trucking firm moving drilling rigs for the next fifteen years all over Western Canada. Shortly after moving to Leduc, I met my wife-to-be, Nora, and was married in 1950.

Nora, the youngest of ten children, was born on a farm at Galahad where she spent the first seven years of her life until her father passed away. Shortly after, her mother and one older sister moved into the town of Galahad where Nora completed her schooling. She then moved to Edmonton to work. During one of her sister's weddings, Nora and I met and there began our relationship.

After we married we resided in Edmonton for eight years. Our eldest child, a son Ron, and two girls, Colette and Laurel, were born while we were there. We then moved to Calgary where a daughter Beverly was born.

Trucking was a good income, but lacked much as far as family life was concerned, so after much

thought we decided what better place to raise a family than on a farm? In '62 we purchased the E ½ Section 20-47-20-W4 from Ray Frankson as a going concern. This included a couple of sows, a dozen or so range cows, and a horse that was to remain until death. Also included came a round bailer. Anyone who is familiar with a round bailer can understand why that was the first piece of equipment we got rid of. You'd think that thing had a brain — as soon as the sun went down, the bailer would refuse to work.

The first cream check we picked up, which came to less than ten dollars, sure made us wonder if we could possibly make a living at this thing called farming.

We soon built a hog barn and later a milking set-up for about thirty cows, but found we had too much work, so sold off the dairy operation and specialized in grain farming. We then converted the dairy barn into a hog barn.

During these years we increased our family with another son, Andy and our youngest, a daughter, Lisa.

As I write this little account of our lives, our three eldest children are married and most have homes of their own, in our yard. Sometimes people even refer to our place as Brantonville . . . I wonder why!

During the twenty years that we've lived in these parts, we've had bad times and good times, but I must say, we have had an over-all very good and happy life.

Mr. and Mrs. John Broen

John Broen, at the age of seventeen years, came from Norway with his widowed mother, brother, and sister and travelled to Minnesota, where he had relatives, the Grues. Once there, John worked off the price of the tickets to Mr. Grue, as he had sent for them.

Mary came with her folks, the Eklunds, from Sweden when she was fourteen years old. She had also two brothers and four sisters. The family travelled to Kulm, North Dakota after arriving in the United States.

John did not stay long in Minnesota before he travelled to Kulm, North Dakota to get some land. Once there, he met Mary Eklund and they were later married. The Broens stayed in that area until three sons, Einar, Asy, and Erik, were born.

In 1894, John went north, to the Northwest Territories, to look around. Having liked what he saw, he went back home and the family prepared to move, in 1896, to what is called Armena. They had salted pork, flour, and coffee with them for food; anything went those days.

They came by train to Wetaskiwin and then by



Robert Branton family.



John Broen, 1924.



Mary Broen, 1924.

wagon to the farm of Thore Grue, where they stayed until they had built some shelter on their homestead. They erected a homestead house and a log barn, which is still standing on the farm. In 1902, they built a new house, one which is still there and was lived in until two years ago when the owner built a modern house. John then started the task of clearing the land, land which had lots of big trees.

In 1910, the Canadian Northern Railroad decided to put a railroad through. They came to survey the line and found it was to go between the house and our barn. They changed their minds however, and moved it a half-mile further south. In 1912, they built the railroad. There were lots of workers and many camps set up along the line. Mary baked bread for one camp, receiving twenty-five cents for three big loaves. The kids used to deliver them, always receiving some goodies from the cook. This rail line is still being used.

Three more children, Ingvard, Josephine, and Magnus, were born at Armena. Only Josephine is living, the rest passed on.

In 1916, John and Pithouse opened a store, which they ran for four years, in Hay Lakes. They also had the local Post Office.

Transportation those days was with horses and wagon or horses and the buggy until John bought a Ford Touring Car, a novelty those days. He drove the Ford up to the time of his passing in 1933, at the age of seventy years. Mary lived on for another twenty-eight years, passing away at eighty-seven years in 1961.



Grandma Broen, 85 years, 1959. Magnus, Lila, Bruce, and Patrick.

Einar married Amy Danielson and they had five children, one boy and four girls. Asy married Emma Hilland they had five children, two boys and three girls. Josephine married Eskel Paulson and they had four children, three boys and one girl. Magnus married Lilly Johnson and they had three children, two girls and one boy.

Christian Olsen Broen by Irene Grue

Christian O. Broen was born at Bjorn farm in Alvdal, Norway on January 7, 1850. His fiancée was Gina Lomnes born March 24, 1854 on Lomnes farm Rendalen, Norway.

In 1876 they, together with friends, left Tyldal, Norway to see the more spacious America. They arrived at Downsville, Wisconsin U.S.A. where Christian started working for Knapp Stout Lumber Co. Later he took up farming.

In May 1876 Gina and Christian were married in Menomoni, Dunn County, Wisconsin. To this union the following children were born:

Inga, Feb. 1, 1877
Kari, Nov. 18, 1878
Einar, Nov. 4, 1880
Oline, Jan. 5, 1883
Gina Christine, Feb. 3, 1885
Berthea, May 5, 1886



Christian Olsen Broen family. Standing at back: Inga, Kari, Einar. Sitting: C. O. Broen. Standing: Anton, Berthea, Emma. Sitting in front: Christine, Oline.

Emma Gurine, Dec. 5, 1887
Anton, April 13, 1889
Ragna, Nov., 29, 1890
Helmer Gurin, April 29, 1892

Gina passed away suddenly in the year 1893 at the age of thirty-nine years. Christian was left with eight young children to care for.

In 1901 Christian and his son Anton left Sheldon, North Dakota U.S.A. arriving in Alberta, Canada. He chose a homestead north of Armena. Some years later he sold his farm, moving to the Lundemo district where he spent about twenty years with his son Anton.



Christian Olsen Broen in his garden and orchard — 1928.

In later years he made his home with Simon and Berthea Grue. He enjoyed hunting, trapping and gardening. A small plum orchard was planted by him. Playing his accordion and singing were also favorite pastimes.

He passed away September 18, 1932 in St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose at the age of eighty-two years.

The Tony Broen Story by Eldie Broen

Anton (Tony) Olsen Broen was born April 13, 1889 at Ransom, North Dakota to parents Mr. and Mrs. Christian Olsen Broen. At the age of twelve Tony came to Alberta, N.W.T. in 1901 with his father. They came by train with three carloads of household goods, stock and machinery. Tony had hidden under the binder for part of the trip until the train men got wise to the fact that there was someone hiding. From then on his dad had to pay for his ticket. Poor Grandpa did not have much money to build a log house.

They were very lucky to meet the Thore Grue family who asked them to stay at their place until they got their home built. From then on Tony and Oscar got to be the best of pals.

Christian homesteaded the S.W. 24-48-21-W4.



Tony and his dad's first house in Canada was built in 1901.



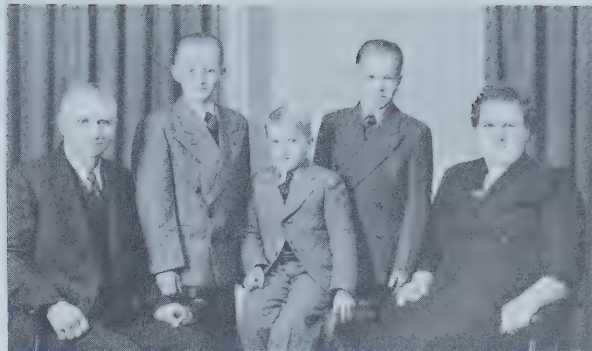
Log house on Tony's farm.

Einor homesteaded the S.W. 20-48-20-W4.

When Tony became old enough to get land he walked to Wetaskiwin and rode the train to Edmonton. He stayed overnight in an Edmonton Hotel and was very uncomfortable as he had to share the room with a stranger. The next day he returned by train and on foot.

Einer, Oline, Berthea and Christine came one by one later. They all got married except Tony. He waited for me to grow up. Was I ever lucky! Tony and I got married on May 18, 1934. We lived in the log house on the S.W. 20-48-20 W4 for four years. Then we built a new house in 1938 and a barn in 1939.

We had a family of three boys; Lorne, Ordean and Randle. They became very athletic and were in-



Tony Broen family. Lorne, Ordean, Tony, Randle, Eldie.

volved in both hockey and ball. Tony and I enjoyed attending their games as much as they did playing.

In the 1960's we sold our farm to Robert and Thea Young and moved to Camrose.

Tony passed away April 18, 1973.

I continue to live in my home and enjoy quilting and discing and the Golden Club. Edie Blink and I were on the discing team which won the silver medal at the Senior Summer Games held in Camrose in 1980.

In 1959 Lorne married Mary Nelson from Hardisty. Lorne is presently working for A. E. Lepage Real Estate in Camrose. Mary works at the Bank of Montreal. They have two boys, Darren, who cooks at The Feedmill and Kevin who is still in High School.

Ordean married Lavona Peterson from Armena. They just celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in May of 1981. They have three children, Daryl, Sandra and Donna. Ordean has been a member of the Camrose City Police for many years and also raises and trains quarter horses on his farm north of Camrose. Lavona is selling real estate for A. E. Lepage. Daryl married Kathy Solverson and they live with their little daughter, Heather, on the Broen farm. Sandra is working for the Department of Highways for the summer, but will again be attending Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle this fall. Donna is still at home and is in High School.

Randle and Eileen Smithson from Bittern Lake were married in 1961. Randle worked for many years with MacDonald's Consolidated. When the office in Camrose closed he transferred to Canada Safeway where he works today. He also farms north of Camrose. Eileen works part-time as a Registered Nursing Assistant at St. Mary's Hospital. They have five children who are still at home, Craig, Denise, Robert, Darcy and Lisa.

The Ordean Broen Family

Ordean and Lavona and their three children moved from Camrose to the Baldenstein District in

the Spring of 1969. We purchased a quarter of land, SW ¼ of Section 23-47-20 W4, from Bob Smithson. We can recall after buying the land in March, going out there in our rubber boots, standing in mud up to our knees, looking at each other and saying, "Where should we start?" No trees, no fences, nothing that would even resemble a building site. We truly felt like pioneers, but we took up the challenge, started planting trees, had a house moved onto the land and started several other building projects. We now operate a full time quarter horse business on this land.

Daryl, our oldest, works for us full time, showing, training, conditioning our horses and some for other clients, some from as far away as Oklahoma. Daryl married Kathy Solverson in 1977 and they, along with their daughter, Heather, live in a mobile home on the land.

Sandra, our second child, has just completed two years of Bible School at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle and will finish her education at the U of A Calgary for a degree in Social Work.

Donna is still at home and in grade eleven. She has her own horse and does some showing as well. Ordean has just completed twenty years of service with the City Police in Camrose. Lavona has been in real estate for the past three years.

The thirteen years we've spent in the district have been busy ones, but also very rewarding. We feel we have built the place up as a family-unit working together.

Sam Bronkin

Sam Bronkin homesteaded the SE of 2-48-21-W4. His wife and daughter had been on a visit to Norway and were returning on the Titanic April 14, 1912. This, the largest ship afloat at the time, had reached a point about 1,000 miles south east of Halifax. Here it collided with an iceberg and sank four hours later, early in the morning of April 15th. The Carpathia hearing the Titanic's wireless calls for help, rushed to the scene in time to pick up the passengers, but 1,595 persons went to their death.

We are sorry to record that Mrs. Bronkin and her daughter were among the 1,595.

Mr. Bronkin sold his land to Mr. Gustaf Anderson.

The Burvill Family **by A. W. (Bill) Burvill**

My family and I moved to Armena from Edson, Alberta in 1963 and settled on an acreage which I bought from Philip Anderson (the former Lewis Evers place). Mr. Joe Bunn who lived with us in Edson also came with us.

I worked for the city of Camrose. My wife, the

former Florence Jorden, and I had five children. Mark lives at Kimberly, British Columbia as does Joseph (Jody) who is employed in mining operations there. Dick lives at Spruce Grove. Marion, Mrs. Peter Stangowitz, lives in Camrose and Janice, Mrs. Allan Pflughaupt lives in Edmonton.

On April 19, 1980 Florence passed away. I sold my land to Ken Thiessen and moved to Camrose. Joe who is now ninety-three years old moved with me and continues to live with me.

I am now retired and happily married to Sonja Anderson. We are newly-weds as of November 28. We had a great time when Sonja's family of seven and my bunch got together for the first time at our wedding.

Camrose is a great little city and I plan to live out my days here.

The Canfields

Jim and I both came from Calgary, where we were married on December 29, 1973. For our honeymoon we drove to Camrose-Armena area in separate vehicles. We moved into the Rasmussen place January 6, 1974. We never met a neighbor for six months as the snow was so deep we couldn't leave the yard at times. We were stranded in Camrose for three days at one time. When the snow melted we couldn't get to town because every road washed out. When we finally met the neighbors we found that most of them were new to the area as well, but whenever we needed help or to borrow something they were always there. Now eight years later we have purchased ten point three acres surrounding the Rassmussen farmstead and have a Vacuum Tank Service.

We have three children Sheana-Marie, six, born July 25, 1975, Ron, four, born August 5, 1977 and Richard Layne, four months old, born August 10, 1981.

The neighbors are still great and we have been able to overcome any hardship put in front of us so far.

The Harvey Cardiff Family **by Harvey Cardiff**

My parents James and Margaret Cardiff were born and raised in Renfrew, Ontario; then moved to Fernie, B.C. where my father worked in a logging camp for several years. Later they moved to New Norway, Alberta where they bought a farm. They farmed in the New Norway area for several years. The three of us boys, Stewart, Stanely and I were born there.

From New Norway we moved to the Armena district where my father bought what was known as



Stanley, Stewart, Mrs. Cardiff and Harvey.

the Ditmonson farm, south east of Armena where my father farmed until his death in January, 1933.

We three boys attended the Lyseng school near by. After my father died,, Stewart stayed on the farm for a number of years and later sold it to Wilbert Lyseng. Stanley went to the Camrose Lutheran College for several years and I worked at various jobs at neighbouring farms as well as a couple of winters in logging camps.

In 1940 I bought my own farm just west of Armena.

In 1946 I married Frieda Kaus whose parents had bought the Gus Anderson farm which was known as the Ostrem place in early years.

In 1956 we moved to Pitt Meadows, B.C. where we are still dairy farming. We have four children, two boys and two girls, three of which are married. So far they have provided us with one handsome grandson and two lovely granddaughters.

My mother died in 1957 and my brothers Stewart and Stanley died in 1980.

The James Carlson Family by Lucille Siwak

James Carlson was born in Sweden and at the age of nine moved with his parents to North Dakota. From there they moved to Clyde, Alberta, where he was raised on a farm. Lydia was the daughter of Jonas and Christina Anderson of the Wilhelmina district. James and Lydia were married in 1929 and lived on a farm near Clyde the first ten years of their marriage.

They arrived in the Camrose North district on April 10, 1944. They farmed two and a half miles north of Camrose before moving into Camrose. They

had five children — Lucille, Irvin, Shirley, Glen, and Gail. In 1968 James died of a heart attack and a year later Lydia moved out to Langley, British Columbia where she lived with her son Irvin until her death in 1973.

Lucille became a nurse at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton and in 1951 she married Dr. Walter Siwak. They live in Camrose where Dr. Siwak is a surgeon with the Smith Clinic. They have three children — Beverly, Linda, and Kenton. Beverly is married to Bruce Heroux and they have three children — Tina, Paul, and Tanya. They live in Lethbridge. Linda works in Calgary and Kenton is going to College in Lethbridge.

Irvin has remained a bachelor and has lived his adult life in various points in B.C. He presently lives in Vernon, B.C. where he is in the construction business.

Shirley became a psychiatric nurse, taking her training in Essondale, B.C. She decided to take a trip around the world but got as far as Australia where her plans changed. She is now married to Brian Kayser and they live in Sydney, Australia. Brian is General Manager of the Australian Polled Hereford Association. They have three children also — Christopher, Mark and Roslyn.

Glen is an Electrical Engineer with A.G.T. He lives in Edmonton with his wife Doreen and their two sons Jeffery and Ryan James.

Gail became a Lab Technician and worked in Edmonton until her marriage to Willis Weiss. They lived in Sherwood Park until her sudden death in 1980 at the age of thirty-two years. Besides her husband Willie, she left behind three small children — David, Robbie, and Tricia.

The Theodore Carlson Family submitted by Clifford and Alma Carlson

At the age of nineteen years, Theodore August Carlson born November 14, 1887 left his home in Ulfalsa, Sweden, and came to Lancaster, Minnesota. He worked in the lumber camps as a woodsman.

Elna Marie, born September 23, 1887 at the age of one year, together with her parents, Peter and Matilda Anderson, left Jamtland, Sweden, and came to Grasston, Minnesota. Here Elna attended school. Later, she went to Lancaster where she met Theodore Carlson. They were married, in 1911, and took up farming. Theodore also did painting.

Their first child, Cecelia, was born in 1911. A son, Clifford, was born in 1914. Floreen and his twin sister, Florence, were born in 1916. Sorrow came to the Carlson home when Florence was kicked by a horse and passed away, a couple days later at the age of two years. January 2, 1920, brought the arrival of



Theodore Carlson family, 1928. Clifford, Cecelia, Elna, Theodore, Raymond, Floreen.

their third son, Raymond. As the children became school age, they attended Lancaster School.

Much was heard about Alberta and its fertile land. This interested the Carlson family very much. Theodore came to the Camrose area in July, 1928, and found it to his liking. It was while he was here that he met Rev. C. G. Gronberg, the pastor who was serving Fridhem Lutheran Congregation. Rev. Gronberg contacted the church council, for the Carlsons, about their renting the parsonage located just north of the church.

On December 13, 1928 the family landed in Camrose with a train car of machinery and furniture. Carl Anderson brought them, and their belongings, to their new home. The Carlsons then, like everyone else had to buy cows to milk. While living at the parsonage, Floreen and Raymond attended Lyseng School; their teacher being Miss Inez Thronson.

March, 1929 they moved to the Missionary Ida Grosset's farm, now owned by Randy Broen. Here Floreen and Raymond were scholars at Baldenstein School; Miss Margerite Olson being the teacher. They lived in this area about four years.

During this time Cecelia married Elmer Olson, a neighbor boy, and took up farming. They have one daughter, Donita Marie, and four sons, Byron, Lyndon, Ted (Theodore), and Daryl. They are all married

and have families of their own. (See Elmer Olson story.)

In the spring of 1933, Theodore, Elna, and their three sons moved to the Sam Ackland farm in the Donalda North area. They farmed with horses and milked their cows by hand. During this time, the crops were light as it was a period of very dry years. The Carlsons remained on this farm for five years, during which time Raymond completed his public education at Glen Park, and attended high school in Meeting Creek.

In the spring of 1938, they moved to the former Sven Johnson farm S½ 9-48-20-W4, owned by Fridhem Lutheran Church. The church had become the owners by paying off the mortgage, and by caring for Mr. Johnson for as long as he lived. Moving to this farm was rather difficult for the Carlsons as the roads were drifted and their cattle had to be herded along the way by riders on horseback. Not too long later farming by tractor power soon ended horses on the farm. The Carlson family purchased this farm a few years after they moved there.

In the mid forties, the orphan twins, Edwin and Dwayne Vikman, made their home with the Carlsons. The boys attended Lyseng School, having Mrs. Lavern Nesvold for the teacher. After the school was closed they attended Thronson School; Mrs. French being the teacher. The twins next move was to Edmonton, where they lived with their uncle and his family. Later, they went to the United States to be with their sisters. They joined the navy and served their country. Upon returning from service, they both married. Edwin has a son and a daughter; Dwayne has no children. Edwin and Dwayne both live in Denver, Colorado, and work for the telephone company.

After the marriage of Clifford and Alma Knudson, of Ryley, on November 17, 1948, Clifford and



Theodore and Elna Carlson's 40th Anniversary, March 23, 1951. Lyndon, Byron, Clifford, Donna, Floreen, Raymond, Cecelia, Elmer, Myrna, Alma, Theodore, Elna, Helen, Curtis, Teddy, Charlotte, Daryl.

Floreen took over the farm. Theodore and Elna retired to their home in Camrose.

Besides farming, Clifford was Secretary-Treasurer for the Armena-Lundemo Mutual Telephone Company. He held this position from January, 1948 to the spring of 1972, when Alberta Government Telephones (A. G. T.) took over the Mutual and installed underground systems. He was also Troubleshooter for many years. Many hours were spent repairing the telephone lines due to storms and oil rigs being transported. Regardless of road and weather conditions, the lines had to be kept in working order to have telephone service.



Note the one-horse rake. Floreen Carlson.

In the spring of 1956 and 1974, we experienced flooding which necessitated boats as a mode of travel. Boats were used to bring out the cream and bring in the groceries and feed for the animals. We are thankful for the neighbors who helped us during this catastrophe.

Clifford and Alma retired to Camrose in December, 1980, and live at 5208-53 Ave. At the present time the farm is being rented.

Clifford and Alma have one daughter, Myrna Kaye, born October 9, 1950. She attended Armena



Clifford Carlson family. Leonard Nickel, Myrna, Roxy, Niel, Alma, Clifford.

and Hay Lakes Schools. She married Leonard Nickel on August 15, 1970. They have two children, Niel, born April 30, 1974, and Rox-Anna, born May 20, 1978. They live in Camrose. Niel boasts that his first trip to see Grandpa and Grandma was by boat.

Floreen, who chose to remain single, enjoys fishing and big game hunting. He is popular with his nieces and nephews and also his great-nieces and great-nephews. He retired to Camrose in the fall of 1980, and makes his home with Clifford and Alma.

After Raymond graduated from Camrose High School, he took a business course at Camrose Lutheran College. He took employment with the Beaver Lumber Company in Camrose and later was transferred to Meeting Creek, where he was manager of the lumber yard and also the hardware store. A few years later he was transferred back to Camrose.

June 20, 1943, Raymond and Helen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Nesvold, of the Baldenstein district were married. They were blessed with a daughter, Charlotte, and a son, Curtis.



Raymond and Helen, Charlotte and Curtis Carlson.

Raymond passed away at the age of thirty-two years and was laid to rest at the Camrose Cemetery. Helen, his widow, married Philip Link and they now live in Camrose. Charlotte married Morris Knudtson and they have one son, Eric Jon. They reside in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Curtis married Jeanne Murphy and they have two daughters, Catherine and Christine. They live in Ottawa, Ontario.

The Carlsons were active members of Fridhem Lutheran Congregation until its closing. Theodore Carlson passed away in September, 1954, at the age of sixty-seven years and his wife, Elna, in May, 1960, at the age of seventy-three years. They are both laid to rest at Fridhem Lutheran Church Cemetery.

William and Andrew Cheterbok
by Sam Klimovich, brother of Mrs. William Cheterbok

William Cheterbok was born in 1885 in the village of Woratno in White Russia. In 1907 he married Stephania Klimovich and to this union, their only child, Andrew, was born in 1908.

William emigrated from Russia to Canada in 1909 and worked at different jobs, mainly coal mining, while his wife and son remained with her parents in the old country. During this time, the First World War broke out and in 1915, Stephania and Andrew, along with her parents, were moved to Siberia, as war refugees, and they lived there for six years. In 1921, after the war was over, Stephania and family moved back to their homeland in White Russia.

In 1925 William sent tickets and arranged for his wife and their son to come to Canada. From 1925 to 1928 the family lived at Drumheller where William and Andrew worked as coal miners. In 1928 they bought C.P.R. land near Bruce, Alberta. Shortly after that they exchanged the Bruce land for the half-section near Kingman where they lived until Stephania passed away in 1961.

Sam Klimovich, brother of Stephania Cheterbok, recalls the big job of clearing the land which was covered with a heavy stand of white and black poplar. He was hired to do some of the brushing which carried on through the winter. He stayed in a small log cabin that had no ceiling. Each nail in the roof had its own icicle which produced a miniature rainfall whenever there was a thaw. One cold morning, he came out when the doggie crawled under the house, returning with kitty in his mouth. The dog placed it at Sam's feet, then looked up into his master's face questioningly — Kitty had frozen to death.

William bought a house in Camrose where he lived until his passing in 1975. Shortly after his dad's death, Andrew sold the land to Paul Bjorgum and moved, with his wife Annie, to Camrose.

After Annie passed away, Andrew remarried and moved to Calgary where he passed away in June, 1981. Andrew's widow, Felicia, is still living in Calgary.

Sylvia (Jornlin) Christenson

Sylvia Eldora Christenson, third daughter of Minech and Sophia Jornlin was born March 25, 1919 and she married Hans Christenson from Sedgewick, Alberta. They farmed near Armena and had four children, Darrol, David, Joel and Bruce. They recall the day when electricity first came to the farm. The first night, every light in the house and yard remained on all night.

Mr. Christenson passed away on July 28, 1965.



Hans Christenson family. David, Hans, Sylvia, Darrol, Joel.



Bruce Christenson.

Sylvia resumed her teaching career. After returning to University of Alberta she taught for three years in the County of Thorhild after which she returned to Camrose to teach for the County of Camrose. She now lives at 4828-54 St., Camrose.

Darrol Alfred Christenson married Arlene Swanson on July 18, 1964. They live on a farm east of Carmose. They had four children: Marlin (deceased in infancy), Carla, Wendy and Wade. Darrol, besides farming, continues to keep up his accountant work.

David Terrance Christenson married Vivian Helleckson on June 21, 1969. They live on a farm near Armena. David also works at Rosehaven in Camrose. They have three children; Neil, Colin and Susan.

Joel Kevin Christenson was born March 20, 1949 and married Sharon Compton on July 3, 1970. Joel was a dairy farmer for a number of years and then moved to Bonnyville where he is a driller for Jade oil rigs. They have three children; Rhonda, Kristie and Russell.

Bruce Andrew Christenson was born April 25, 1958. Bruce, in spite of his muscular dystrophy handicap, had a bright outlook on life, and was loved

by all who knew him. He spent a number of years at Bethany Home in Camorse, and at Glenrose school in Edmonton. He had completed Grade six when he went to be with his Lord in April 1972.

Jack and Mike Connaughty researched by Elmer Olson

John (Jack) and Michael (Mike) Connaughty came with their parents from Wisconsin, U.S.A. and settled in the Armena district about 1916 and located on the SE ¼ of section 2-48-21 W4.

Michael Charles, their father, died at the age of seventy-one years on November 19, 1916. Their mother, Bridget, kept house for them until her death on October 4, 1930. In 1930 their father's burial place was moved from the old Camrose North Cemetery to the new Camrose Cemetery located south of town.

Jack and Mike purchased a farm in the Baldenstein district in 1938 from Oscar Thompson. Their land location was S ½ of section 29-47-20 W4. They usually batched but in busy seasons, had various housekeepers. Mrs. Soland worked for them for a few years and was a good cook and a wonderful homemaker and neighbor.

As neighbors, the community appreciated their lively Irish humor. Occasionally Jack would sport a cigar but they were at their best with chewing tobacco. It reminded me of the big league baseball players of today with the big lumps in their cheeks. In fact, they were known to have played baseball in their younger years.

After Jack's death on April 27, 1948, Mike farmed alone. Occasionally his sister, Mrs. Margaret Stewart of Stettler, Alberta, would come to visit and also keep house. It was on one such visit that Mrs. Stewart had arrived, by taxi, to spend the New Year with him, when she found that Mike had passed away. He was sixty-five years of age and his untimely death came after the exertion of rounding up his horses in the deep snow. Mike was born on February 14, 1887 and died on January 1, 1952.

Jack and Mike Connaughty were good farmers and were active in our community affairs and were greatly missed.

Frank H. Craney

Frank H. Craney and family came to the Thronson district in November 1930, and lived on the Robert Rasmussen farm until 1937. While there we had lots of good times. The skating rink was built out behind our house and all the young people of the district came to skate. The boys had a hockey team.

Our Dad brought a white pony along from the farm in Saskatchewan. Dolly would run away often and we usually found her over at the Skaret farm. We

also had an Indian pony we called Unka. We four girls often drove these as a team on the buggy when we went to picnics. The boys had their own riding ponies. Budd's was called Babe and Ray's was Dime.

We were kids when we came but left all grown up except for a young brother, Frances.

Our family was Dad and Mom, Ray who married a girl by the name of Carrie, from Jarvie, Alberta. They had three children. They live at Okanogan Falls, British Columbia.

Budd was killed overseas in 1941.

Helen married Archie Wallbank from Hanna, Alberta. They had five boys. Helen and Archie live at Surrey, British Columbia.

Hazel married Paul Blum also from Hanna. We had two girls and we have raised two grandchildren. We live in Camrose.

Sadie married Charlie Higginbottom. She continues her profession of teaching in Taylor, British Columbia. They had four girls and one boy.

Lois married Hillard McLean of Hughenden and they have two boys and a girl. They moved from Red Deer to Oliver, British Columbia following Hillard's retirement as a federal employee at Penhold, Alberta.

Francis married a girl from Okanogan Falls whose name is also Frances. They have three boys and one girl. They live on the parental farm at Etonia, Saskatchewan.

Mom Craney passed away April 1, 1952 at Camrose.

Dad Craney passed away December 18, 1970 at Etonia.

Percy and Anna Crofts

April, 1924 Anna and Percy Crofts arrived with their five children, Hilda, Bernice, Alban, Gordon, and Donald, from southern Alberta, to make their home in the Camrose District. In 1925 they moved to the quarter section of raw C.P.R. land five miles north of Camrose, now owned and occupied by "Spike" Sletten, Anna Crofts brother. Daphne and Jean were born on this farm. We all attended Baldenstein School. In order to supplement the family livelihood, Percy Crofts returned to his profession as interior decorator-painting and paper-hanging, peddling a bicycle back and forth, until 1936, when the family moved to Camrose.

During the "War Years" 1939-1945 — Alban and Donald joined the Service, Alban in the Air Force and Donald in the Army. Donald was killed in action on D Day. Alban returned with an English bride and now lives in Victoria, British Columbia. They have one daughter, Carol living in Calgary with her husband and two sons.

In the fall of 1944, Anna and Percy Crofts,



Percy and Anna Croft in 1920's.

Daphne and Jean left Camrose to make their home in Victoria, British Columbia. Percy Crofts passed away in the fall of 1945. Daphne and Jean married in Victoria. Daphne had three children, Ronanne, Patrick, and Robert. Daphne passed away in 1968. Jean has one daughter Pamela. They all live in Victoria.

Hilda married Art Falconer from the Hay Lakes district. After she being employed with the Red and White Stores and Pratts Better-Valu, and Art with the Camrose Engineering and Machine Company for twelve years, they moved with their daughter Lloy to Victoria, British Columbia.

Bernice married Earle Erikson from the Armena district. They were blessed with four children, Bonnie, Judy, Laurie, and Donald. Due to Earle's failing



Croft kids in Bennett buggy.



Croft family on wood-pile, 1932.

health, in 1979 they moved from the farm the Armena district to Camrose. Earle passed away in 1980. The girls live in Edmonton, Donald in Fort St. John, British Columbia.

Gordon married Betty Shea from the Sifton district, and four children were born to this union — Bryan, Kenneth, Coleen and Diane. Bryan is in Calgary, Kenneth in Canmore and Coleen and Diane are with their mother in Victoria. Gordon passed away in 1969.

Anna Crofts passed away in 1974.

Living was especially difficult for large families during the depression days. All the family clothes were made from old garments, but as we look back, that was the happiest and most carefree time of our lives, when we were all together.

Nels K. Dahl by Velma Gooch

After arriving from Norway, Nels Dahl married Julia Thronson, the eldest of the Thronson family. She had been a real mother to the younger members of the family, a fine seamstress who had sewed clothing, stitched quilts, etc.

They settled on their farm, where the Dahl house still stands near the new home the Oliver Grue's built in later years. Mr. Dahl was chief carpenter in the building of Thronson School.

The Dahl family moved after a few years to Oregon, where they were stricken with food poisoning (a bag of salt had become contaminated in a grocer's warehouse). This left Nels unable to work, and the one son Ingvald partly disabled and the others with varying degrees of damage.

They then moved to Vancouver, Washington where Nels sold some real estate and owned a small store. The other members of the family worked in canneries to help make a living. Ingvald became a mail carrier and the girls become stenographers.

Selma, the oldest girl, died during the flu in 1918



Julia and Nels Dahl.



House built in 1901 by Nels Dahl. The last one to live in it was an oil-battery operator in 1954. The chimney has fallen down but otherwise it looks like this.

or 1919. Ingvald and Nels died during the forties, and Julia at about age 84. Mabel (Mapes) died at age 59. Clara (Knickerbocker) and Luella (Stiles) now widows, are still living in Portland, Oregon, and Gladys (Howlett) and family near by. There are a number of grandchildren of Nels and Julia Dahl who now have families of their own.

Norma (Lyseng) Dalen and Harold Dalen

Nils and Oline's only daughter and youngest of the family was Norma Oline, several years younger than her brothers. She was very active in youth work and was a leader in the Scandia girls club — first in the Sunshine Club in which both Scandia and Fridhem girls were involved, then in the L.D.R. — Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation. The girls did beautiful hand work, crocheting and embroidery

and held a sale every year on the 24th of May, the proceeds of which went to support Mission Projects. After graduating from C.L.C. Norma was secretary in the E.L.C.C. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada office in Saskatoon. In 1947 she married Harold Dalen in Scandia Church. Harold is a farmer at Valley Park near Pike Lake, 25 miles south west of Saskatoon, where they live. In later years they have been going into B.C. or to Arizona during the colder weather. They have four children, Deanna, Gerald, Murray and Joel. Deanna married Dr. Gordon McAllister who practices in Red Deer. They have a boy and a girl. Gerald married in 1974 and has two children. In 1976 Murray was married and has two children. Joel has remained on the farm to help his father.

It is interesting to note that the Dalens — some spell it Dahlen — are related to the Lysengs a couple generations back. They came to Canada from the Dahlen settlement in Dahlen, North Dakota.

Dion Oscar Davidson

In a northern fishing village in Norway called Tuv i Salten near Bodo, Dion Oscar Davidson was born on April 5, 1888. As a young boy he was accustomed to the life and hardships of the deep sea fisherman. At the age of fourteen he had his own fishing boat and equipment. He would sail out into the northern waters of the Lofoten Islands as a commercial fisherman.

In 1912 he decided to move to Canada and try a new adventure in farming. Arriving in Edmonton, Alberta, he filed for a homestead northwest of Edmonton at a place called Lonira, near Greencourt. Before he left Norway, a romance had blossomed between him and Ivara Charlotte Jakobson. She also was born in Tuv i Salten, Norway on June 4, 1892. She could relate incidents of the early fisherman, as her father and brothers endured the heavy seas and dangerous tides of the Saltstramen. Ivara went into psychiatric training and worked in a mental hospital in Bodo.

During a two year period the postal system provided a means of communication for the further courtship between Dion and Ivara. Just as World War I broke out it was decided that Ivara should embark for Canada to marry Dion. However, she was faced with a situation of bidding farewell to her dying mother. With the outbreak of the war she was faced with the possibility of not being able to travel, so with the blessing of her mother, she was able to catch the last steamer bound for Canada. Dion and Ivara were married by Rev. N. J. Thornquist on October 13, 1914.

The newlyweds immediately took up residence at



Dion Davidson family, 1944. Standing: Arthur, Mildred, Carsten, Leif. Seated: Verner, Dion, Ivara, Harlen.

Dion's homestead at Lonira. They spent six years there, clearing land with a team of oxen and making a meagre existence. Arthur and Carsten were born at the homestead.

In 1920 they made a decision to move to a more flourishing community north of Camrose, Alberta in the Armena District. Immediately they settled on a quarter section SE 8-48-20 W4th south of Nels Grues, but shortly after, rented a quarter from P. M. Pederson. This was home until they bought a quarter section one and one half miles north of Thronson School. They erected the present home, barn and other buildings. During the next few years their family increased with the births of Mildred, Leif, Harlen and Verner. The family were active members of Scandia Lutheran Church and the children attended Thronson School. The family also took an active interest in community and sports activities.

Mr. Davidson still had the call of the sea, so while his sons grew, he would leave them in charge of the farm and in the summer he would travel to the west coast for salmon fishing. Farming and fishing did not mix so in 1944 the farm was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Stavne.

Moving from Alberta, the family took up residence in Surrey, British Columbia. Living in a fishing area, Mr. Davidson could further his dream. Over a period of a few years he helped design and build four seaworthy fishing vessels. Many years on the West Coast of British Columbia finally took its toll — in 1963 Mr. Davidson suffered a stroke. He passed away on February 11, 1964.

A few years later Mrs. Davidson sold the Surrey home to take up residence in Burnaby. During this time she was active in the church. As a member of Mount Zion Lutheran Church, New Westminster, Ivara spent many happy hours helping others in need. She also found time for Senior Citizen groups and

travelling. She continued in many community activities until her passing on May 19, 1981 in her eighty-ninth year.

The Davidson Family

Carsten Berg Davidson — born October 27, 1915 at Lonira, Alberta married Ada Norlander. They lived near Miquelon Lake where their three children were born. Shirley Ann, now Mrs. Joe Radowitz is living at New Sarepta, Ryan died in infancy and Delmer is living at Medicine Hat, Alberta. Carsten served in the Canadian Army (Royal Canadian Corps of Signals) as a signalman. On November 11, 1944 he left for England and later to Germany where he contacted scarlet fever and passed away July 31, 1945.

Arthur Didrick Davidson — born August 22, 1918 at Lonira, Alberta. As a youngster in Alberta he became active in many sports including baseball and hockey. He served in the Canadian Army but after contracting rheumatic fever he was honorably discharged in 1942. He married Gladys Grundberg from Dinant and they moved to British Columbia where they resided in Burnaby. For twenty-five years, Arthur worked as a Federal Civil Servant with the Unemployment Insurance Commission. He was an active member of Mount Zion (Nidaros) Lutheran Church and an enthusiastic leader with the Boy Scout Movement of which he became a District Commissioner. After spending a year seriously ill in Shaughnessey Hospital, Vancouver, he passed away May 20, 1972.

Arthur and Gladys had a family of three children — Gary Kyall, who is now an electrician for Scott Paper in New Westminster. He and his wife Patricia Ann have two children, Jeffrey Todd and Kylla Colleen. They reside in Surrey, B.C. Heather Faye, who received her Education Degree from the University of B.C., has taught in Surrey where she also resides.



Art Davidson family, 1975. Patricia, Gary, Heather, William, Gladys, Glen, Art (inset).

She is married to William Gilbertson, an accountant, and they have two children, Scott William and Kari Lee. Glen Warren is presently attending U.B.C. enrolled in Engineering.

Mildred (Davidson) Bryant — born in Camrose, Alberta on January 19, 1922. She and her husband Jack, who is a retired heavy duty construction worker reside in Oliver, B.C. They have an adopted son Brian and a foster son George.

Leif Arne Davidson — born April 20, 1924 in Camrose, Alberta. He married the former Seena Swanlund. They have five children, Judy, married and residing in the U.S.A.; Barry, living in Napinka, Manitoba; Neil, at Gibsons, B.C.; Roger, at Medicine Hat, Alberta; and Wendy, also at Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Harlen Oliver Davidson — born September 25, 1928 at Camrose, Alberta. He is employed in the forest industry in the interior of B.C. Harlen and his wife Frances live at Salmon Arm, B.C. and have four children. Sherryll, living at Dawson Creek, B.C.;

Ritchie, at home; Deborah (Jones), living at Hope, B.C.; and Leanne also at home.

Thomas Verner Davidson — born December 2, 1933 at Camrose, Alberta. Vern is employed with B.C. Hydro as a utilization technician and resides in Surrey, B.C. He and his wife Sheila have three children — Everett, living in Burnaby and employed by Continental Can Company; Brent, living in Surrey and self-employed in a small business and Laurie, living at home and attending Simon Fraser University where she is majoring in Special Education.

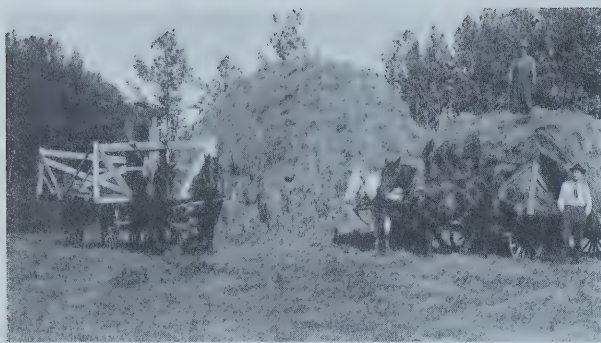
Andrew Ditmanson Family

Andrew Kristian Ditmanson (1858-1932) was born near Sandefjord, Norway. He came to Minnesota in 1869 with his father and family after spending three months on a sailboat. In 1883 they moved to Day County, five miles east of Webster, South Dakota. The family home is still being lived in and the land is still farmed by a descendant.

Andrew married Anne Anderson (1863-1912) in



Andrew Ditmanson family. Back Row, Left to Right: Hired man, Gustaf Anderson, Walter, Albert, Lawrence, Oscar Ditmanson. Sitting, Left to Right: Edwin, Nettie, Anna (Mother), Martha, Ellen, Andrew (Father) Ditmanson, and Wilbert Lyseng.



Ditmanson brothers hauling hay.

the year 1885. Anne was his stepmother's younger sister.

Andrew and Anne homesteaded on a farm near his father's farm near Webster, So. Dakota. Here their eight children were born, namely, Albert, Walter, Oscar, Edwin, Martha and Arthur, who were twins, and Nettie and Ellen.

In 1906 Andrew and Anne moved to Canada and purchased a farm north-west of Camrose, N.E. ½, Sec. 32, T. 47, R. 20, W of 4th, which had been homesteaded by Martin Olson and is presently owned by Wilbert Lyseng.

They lived in a homestead shack until Andrew could get a house built, a large one for those days. He also made a root cellar for storing their vegetables, etc.

Andrew's wife Anne died in 1912.

Albert (1886-1941) unmarried.

Walter (1889-1919) unmarried.

Oscar (1891-1960) unmarried.

Edwin (1891-1950) unmarried.

Martha (1896-1969).

Arthur (1896-1896 twin of Martha, lived three months.

Nettie (1898-1912).

Ellen (1901-1919).

Martha married Emil Lyseng son of Albert Lyseng and they had six children, Elsie (1917), Richard (1919), Luella (1921), Arthur (1924), Mildred (1927) and Wilbert (1933).

Nettie married Edwin Lyseng, Emil's brother and they lived across the road from Martha and Emil. They had one daughter, Esther (1917).

Andrew sold his farm to the James Cardiff family in 1923. He then moved to his homestead in the Hay Lakes area N.W. ½, Sec. 24, T. 48, R. 22, W. of 4th. He sold this land to Mr. Erickson in 1929 and it now belongs to Mr. These who purchased it in 1947.

Clint Macaphee and Ludwig and Emil Lyseng broke up 50 acres of land on the Ditmanson homestead. They took young Orval Pederson along to



Nettie Ditmanson.

cook and to carry the dynamite around to help blow stumps. Orval doesn't remember what he cooked but he made sure he got all the yummy bread crusts and dirtied as few dishes as possible.

Andrew's home on the homestead was a dug out in the side of a hill and the grandchildren were delighted to go there for picnics.

Albert also had land in the Hay Lakes area but sold it to buy a muskrat farm at Miquelon Lake which turned out to be a very bad deal for him.

Andrew spent the last two or three years of his life at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Emil Lyseng.

Oscar purchased a farm north-east of Camrose where he lived until his retirement to Camrose. Oscar was always in demand at Christmas time to help make lefsa as he fried them to perfection on a coal and wood stove. He also knew how to cure lutefisk just right in lye water or wood ashes.

Edwin or Dor, as he was known, farmed N.W. ½, Sec. 32, T.47, R.20. W. of 4th. This farm was sold to Rudolph Schroeder, then to Franksons, then to Ole Madison, then to Hickmans from Calgary and is now owned by the Joe Wenig family.

The Edvall Story by Eldie Broen

Gustave Arron Edvall was born at Risbach, Sweden March 17, 1879.

Julia Albertina Pearson was born at Langfors Dorotea, Sweden July 6, 1879.

Mother and Dad and their two daughters Signe and Fanny left Risback, Sweden by boat in 1905. They came to the Hay Lakes area where others had settled. Dad took a homestead in 1906 and built a log house on the property. A few years later the house burned down. This is where Bill and Rita Webster and family now live.

My mother died in July, 1910 following an accident. Dad was left alone with four girls; Signe, Fannie, Eremena and Eldie. On December 30, 1911 Dad married Evelina Erickson from Wilhelmina, Sweden. To this union were born Lenea, Elmer, Gustie, and Ida (Mrs. Williams).

Shortly before 1920 they left the farm and moved to Sexsmith, Alberta for awhile. They then moved to Shelly, B.C. and from there to Prince George. Dad worked in the mines at Wells, B.C. They lived in and around Prince George for forty-five years.

Dad passed away October 27, 1968 at the age of eighty-nine. My step-mother passed away in February of 1977 at age eighty-eight.

I was born on January 28, 1910 at Hay Lakes. I lost my mother through an accident when I was seven months old. I lived with various families in the neighborhood until I was nine months old when I was given a permanent home at the Severt Kringens.

I attended Thronson School where I made many good and lifelong friends.

After I finished school at Thronson I took housework jobs at various places. In 1934 I married Tony Broen. (See Tony Broen story)



Beverly Erickson cited

16-year-old Beverly Erickson of Camrose was thrilled Friday to receive a special 1979 Junior Citizen of the Year award in recognition of the courage and compassion she displayed both at home and at school during the month's before her mother's death. In one of his last official acts as Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, Hon. Ralph Steinhauer made the presentations to a select group of young Albertans last Friday

during the annual meeting of the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association. It was interesting at the same time to have W. L. (Bill) Fraser, vice president of engineering and planning for Calgary Power, right, representing the company, since Mr. Fraser was for years a resident of Camrose, as division manager for the company in this division.

Beverly was accompanied at the presentation by her father, Arvid Erickson, brother and sister, and two aunts and uncles.

Arvid and Eva Erickson

Arvid and Eva Erickson came to Armena from south of Wetaskiwin, Navarre in 1951 as United Grain Growers' Agent, taking over from Mr. Melvin Peterson.

We arrived in Armena with our son Dwayne being two years old. Dwayne took all his schooling in Armena and Hay Lakes. In 1953 Joanne was born taking her schooling in Armena. Later grades were taken in Camrose. Bev was born in 1963 at Armena and her schooling was all taken in Camrose when we moved there.



Arvid Erickson family — 1960. L.-R.: Eva, Arvid, Dwayne, Jeanne.

Dwayne is a pilot flying out of Fort McMurray. He married Peggy Phillips in 1976. They have one little girl — making Arvid a grand-dad!

Joanne lives in Edmonton. She married Burt Lake in 1980. Joanne is still working for Standard Safety as a secretary.

Beverly is still at home having finished her Grade XII at the Camrose Composite High School.

The Erickson family moved to Camrose in 1965 where Arvid is Elevator Manager. Eva passed away in April 1979. The family and I still keep in contact with the people and different functions at Armena.

Mr. and Mrs. James Erickson and Family by Viola (Erickson) McKinnon

James B. Erickson was born in April, 1870 in Sibley County, township of Cornish, Minnesota. His wife Anna Marie Anderson was born September, 1880. They were married in South Dakota, U.S.A. in 1897.

James, his wife Annie, and their daughter, Esther,



Mr. and Mrs. Jim Erickson married in 1897.

came to the Armena district from South Dakota in 1901. They lived in a log house for one year while they built the house, which still stands on the property three miles south-east of Armena. They moved into their new house in 1902 and on March 18, 1902, their son, Richard, was born there.

The log house was sold to August Thunberg. He took it apart log by log and rebuilt it three-quarters of a mile west of where it originally stood. It became the home of August, his wife, and daughter, Mathilda.

In the early years, "J.B.", as Mr. Erickson became known, was government brand inspector and settled estates. He became a grain buyer for United Grain Growers when the elevator opened at Armena. It is interesting to note that Bert Lomnes delivered the first load of grain to this elevator. He later worked in the same position when the elevator opened at Hay Lakes. In 1910, "J.B." was instrumental in the formation of Busk School.

Mrs. Erickson also made valuable contributions to her community. Along with other ladies, she organized a "Sunshine Club" devoted to acts of service such as teaching children handiwork. She was also active in the "Ladies Aid", a group organized to assist in church work. They were always ready to assist families in times of sickness or need.

"J.B." and Annie raised a large family of ten children. Several of them remained to farm in the Armena area. The family grew to include nine sons and daughters-in-law:

Esther, born June 20, 1900, married Oscar Shold on June 17, 1919.

Richard, born March 18, 1902, married Olga Skaret on June 24, 1935.

Viola, born December 18, 1903, married Percy McKinnon on October 12, 1928.

Herman, born December 13, 1905, married Jean French on July 18, 1947.

Earle, born February 12, 1909, married Bernice Crofts on July 15, 1938.

Hilma, born January 20, 1911, married Cecil Widman on July 9, 1934.

Andrew, born January 29, 1913.

Hazel, born October 5, 1915, married Bud Craney on November 1, 1939.

Pearl, born October 23, 1917, married Alvin Dankwerth on September 20, 1947.

Stanley, born January 5, 1920, married Ada Milne on February 22, 1947.

The Erickson family made a valuable contribution to the Canadian war effort in World War II. Herman and Andy joined the army in 1939 and served until 1945. Stanley joined the air force in 1941 and was parachuted down in Holland in 1942. He was taken prisoner, sent to Germany, and was not released until 1945. Bud Craney, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Erickson, was killed in action in Sicily.



Richard and Olga Erickson.

The year following their marriage they resided with Hans Mortensen, one and a half miles west of Armena. Dick worked for Hans, but mostly worked out on other jobs like breaking land, cutting brush, and road work.



Mrs. J. B. Erickson's 80th birthday. Stanley, Andy, Herman, Earle, Dick, Viola, Mrs. Erickson, Esther.

The Erickson family, now consisting of dozens of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, is scattered over much of Canada and the United States.

Jim Erickson passed away in October, 1950 and Mrs. Erickson in August, 1967. They are buried in the Fridhem Cemetery.

The Richard Erickson Family

Richard (Dick), son of J. B. and Annie Erickson, married Olga, daughter of Ole and Kristina Skaret, on July 24, 1935.



Roger and Cheryl Erickson, 1945.

In the spring of 1937 they moved to a farm one mile east of Armena which they rented and later bought from Olga's dad (who had purchased the farm from Ben Twiet). In addition to farming, Dick started working at Bradleys Sheet Metal in Camrose.

In 1952 they moved to Camrose where Dick continued working at Bradleys and later worked at Hoover and Woskett Sheet Metal until his retirement.

Dick and Olga have a family of two children. Roger Bryce, born May 19, 1937, married Beverley Carruthers of Cardston, Alberta on July 22, 1961. They have three children, Shaunna, Ronald and Jay B. They reside on an acreage seven miles south of Vermilion. Roger, together with Harley Youngberg, have the John Deere Valley Equipment in Vermilion.

Cheryl Jocolyn, born October 13, 1941, married Larry Olson of Ohaton, Alberta on January 10, 1959. They have three children; Selina (Mrs. Bob Read), Suzette, and Scott. Besides grain farming, they raise Polled Hereford cattle on Larry's home place in the Ohaton district.

Dick passed away at the age of seventy-six on October 5, 1978. Olga resides in her home in Camrose.

Earle and Bernice Erickson Family

Earle Erickson married Bernice Crofts on May 2, 1941. They farmed the land known as the E. Olson homestead from then until 1979 when Earle's health forced him to retire.

They were blessed with four children; Bonnie, Judy, Laurie and Donald.

Bonnie (born on December 19, 1945) married



Bernice and Earle Erickson family, 1959. Bernice, Earle, Grandma Erickson, Laurie, Judy, Bonnie, Donald.

Luther Haave in 1967 and they live in Edmonton with their two children Kristofer, (October 23, 1976) and Julianne (May 8, 1978).

Judy (born January 21, 1949), married Jim Chapman in 1969. They had one son, Tyler (November 13, 1977). They divorced and Judy married Nic Wry in 1980 at Fridhem Lutheran Church. They have a daughter, Kristine (July 2, 1981). Judy, Nic and family live in Edmonton.

Laurie (born August 30, 1951) married Dan Moth in 1969 and they are living in Lamont.

Don, (born July 12, 1954) married Sue Hornford in 1978 and they are living in Ft. St. John, British Columbia.

Bernice and Earle moved to Camrose in 1978 and Earle passed away on July 7, 1980.

John J. Erickson

John came to Canada in 1905 from Jackson, Minnesota. He worked as a labourer on odd jobs, and then filed on a homestead which he proved up by 1910. The homestead was N.W. quarter, Sec. 20-48-20.

In the fall of 1910, he went back to Jackson, and was there for over a year. On June 24, 1911 he married Lizzy Thoreson. In April of 1912 John and Lizzy came back to Canada and built their house. This house is still standing after sixty-nine years. On June 22, 1913, Harry Alvin Erickson was born to John and Lizzy. He is their only child.



John, Lizzy, and Harry Erickson.



John's first car, 1925 Star, John and Harry.



John Erickson and John Thordson in Depression.

John and Lizzy's mailing address was a post office in Lundemo, run by John Waldom for several years, and later run by Mrs. Ralph Hatfield. Following this it was the Kingman mail route.

John and Lizzy were quite active in the Bethlehem Church and choir. John was also active as a School Trustee and was on the school board for years.

My parents had some hard years, as these were not the best of times. Farming was done with horses then, and Dad had four white horses that he farmed with. As I grew up and helped with the farming I used



Family of Mary and Harry Erickson, 1975.

the same horses as Dad. Those horses lasted until they were twenty-eight years old!

I was married on November 9, 1936 to Mary Hinkelman of New Sarepta, Alberta. We have four children; Ernest, Donavon, Alma and Dennis. Mary and I lived with my parents for as long as they lived.

Dad had a light stroke in the fall of 1940 and was ill until he passed away on November 28, 1941 at the age of fifty-eight years, four months.

Mother sold the home place to Roy Forsen in 1946 and we moved to Cooking Lake, Alta.

In the spring of 1947 Mother had a stroke and passed away on August 13, 1947 at the age of fifty-eight years, nine months.

We were at Cooking Lake until 1951, then moved to Chilliwack, B.C. and are still living there.

The Nels Erickson Family submitted by Hazel Buch

The Nels Erickson family came to the Baldenstein district in the spring of 1932, from Killam, Alberta.



Moving to the Baldenstein District in the spring of 1932.

Dad rented the farm just north of the school from Oscar Thompson. There were eight boys and two girls with Mom and Dad living in a four room house. How did we sleep? Well Mom and Dad and the youngest child slept in one bed room. The seven boys slept in the other bed room. The girls had the living room when we were all home.

During the first summer we girls worked out when we weren't needed at home. Some of the boys helped neighbors by herding cows along the roads.

On the first day of school as the five of us were walking the one quarter mile we felt a bit deceived. For after moving fifty miles we hoped to have the good fortune of being far removed from the institution of learning. On approaching the school one of the brothers described it as an abominable monster. We heard later that the teacher was wondering if she could handle four more boys.

The first Christmas here was tough and Mom was expecting her twelfth child. There wasn't much food



40th Anniversary of Nels and Ella Erickson.

but we managed. Mom baked bread and cinnamon rolls every other day. In one week she made fifty-two big loaves of bread besides pans of buns and rolls.

Friday nights were a highlight when neighboring young people came and we would skate on the slough behind the barn, then in for buns and hot chocolate. Two years later Mom and Dad adopted a baby girl.

The first Christmas here one of the boys went to the neighbors that had a large spruce tree on their land asking if he could take two branches to make a tree and that was our tree. Another thing that stands out that first Christmas is neighbors who care. Mother and one of the girls were sitting by the kitchen table as we looked out the window we saw a man coming



1936, The Nels Erickson boys.

up the road with a pack on his back. Mother said "another one from the railroad tracks." But as he came closer we saw it was none other than John Olson. He left his pack and looking into it here was a great big turkey and a gift for each one of the little ones. Stanley, one of the boys spent several winters cleaning grain for farmers. The rest of us were out working wherever we could get jobs whenever we weren't needed at home.

They lived there until the spring of 1939 when they moved over on school land in the Swea district.

Mother passed away in 1952 and Dad in 1959.

Thorval and Stanley are in Wetaskiwin, Hazel, Nettie and Ernest are in Camrose, with Ernest still farming the home place. Chester passed away in 1978, Lester is in Creston British Columbia in his own barber shop, Raymond is in Nepean, Ontario, pastor of the Ceder View Alliance church. Gordon is in Grimshaw Alberta with his floor laying business. Dennis is in Edmonton, driving a truck for Westburne Co. Gladys is in Stoney Plain.

The Axel Eriksson Family

by Herbert F. D. Erickson

Genesis:

In the year 1902 Axel E. Eriksson, a student at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, responded to a call to assist the Rev. Per Almgren in the Northwest Territories in Western Canada. Rev. Almgren was ministering to scattered settlements of Swedes in the area which three years later became known as the Province of Alberta. During the summer holiday months Axel travelled by horse and buggy all through central Alberta. After the tragic death of Rev. Almgren in 1906, he continued the work during the winter as well. I recall him telling of being lost more than once in wintry blizzards on the prairie, sometimes letting his team find its own way to shelter. A light in the shack of a settler was indeed a welcome sight on a dark, cold and stormy night. Axel's health was eventually threatened by his strenuous labours, so that, under doctors orders, he had to change from this demanding task in 1909. He then filed on a homestead and pre-emption at Hughenden, Alberta. To accomplish this, he walked twenty miles from the end of steel at Hardisty and then walked back to Hardisty the same day.

In 1908 he was joined in marriage with Minnie Rosalie Strandberg at Clive, Alberta. Six sons and two daughters were born to them between 1909 and 1926. All are still alive and well, except for Edwin, who lived but a few hours and was buried at Czar.

Interlude

The Erikssons farmed at Hughenden until the fall of 1924, when Axel again responded to a call by the

church, this time to serve as a lay preacher, in southern Saskatchewan. After further studies at seminary he was ordained into the Lutheran ministry in 1929.

In 1931 Father and Mother arrived with their family and the old Four-Ninety Chevrolet at Fridhem Lutheran parsonage between Armena and Dinant. This was on the territory where he had worked earlier in this century. He served the Wilhelmina and Kingman congregations as well, and began a mission north of Miquelon Lake. He also taught part time at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute at Camrose.

A kind parishioner sometimes lent a team of horses in winter, but Father walked many miles on foot to serve the parish when snow drifts blocked the roads for motor vehicles. Our Four-Ninety Chev. was one of the first cars to break open roads through the drifts in spring. Together with one or more of the neighbors, and with shovels handy, the snow barriers were negotiated. Often detours on farmers' field were necessary.

At the parsonage, bees stored their honey in the kitchen wall. We did not get any of it, but I believe someone got the honey out later, before the house was moved to Camrose. Mother had many plants in the house. A circulating heater provided heat for the uninsulated building. I slept in the living room near the heater. An alarm clock awakened me every hour. I would then shove another large chunk of wood into the heater, and reset the alarm. In that way mother's plants remained unfrozen, but in the kitchen ice trapped the dipper solidly in the water pail.

We enjoyed good times at Fridhem. The young folks got together in winter and piled into a canvas-covered triple-deck wagon box on a horse-drawn sleigh. There were Thronsons, Skarets, Jornlins and Craneys, and the writer of this item. The driver was well covered in a warm coat and fur cap and mitts. With the temperature around 40°F below, the fellows took turns bringing a team and driving to the Christmas programs at churches and schools. We were cozy on hay and covered with quilts, but the driver was exposed to the wintry winds and sometimes had to thaw a frozen nose or cheeks. On warm days the box was uncovered. Then the snow balls would fly, and someone might have to run fast to catch the sleigh.

Threshing

I enjoyed the threshing time. Carl Anderson's team and rack were in my charge on the Thronson steam outfit. All the young fellows on the rig took pride in building a good load of bundles. Then we'd get a little rest before unloading at the machine. The young ladies helped the farm women cook at the farms where we threshed. The meals were always

good; and at supper we might wrangle an extra piece of pie.

Baseball:

In the summer we always had enough energy after a day's work to play baseball once or twice a week. Our home diamond was at Carl Anderson's. In 1933 we began a four team league. Our team was Dinant. Armena, Hay Lakes and Kingman were the others. Lauritz Larsen, owner of Nu-Way Store, Hay Lakes, put up a cup for competition. Our team won the cup the first year. Dick Skaret was catcher, Reynold Thronson and I were pitchers. Carl Anderson managed our team, made up entirely of local talent.

The Family

Arthur, who had taken teacher training in Moose Jaw, taught at Brandland School and Grimshaw. He and Herminie Swanland were married in 1937. Later he obtained degrees in Agriculture and Physical Education and Health. He now resides in Edmonton, where he taught at the University of Alberta until his retirement in 1974. Herminie passed away in 1980. They had two sons: Donald, an architect, who died in 1974 of cancer, and Robert, now operating an Insurance agency in Edmonton. There are five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

While at Fridhem I worked for Carl Anderson on his farm from time to time, stooking grain in the fall, hauling and cutting firewood in winter. I attended the first year of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute at Camrose in 1932-33. In 1934 I began work in Edmonton in a wholesale office. Bookkeeping, ac-



Eriksson family after Mother's funeral in 1950. Paul, Vernon, Arthur, Herbert, Helen, Ruth, Harold.

counting, construction work, illustrating, office management, letter carrying, were some occupations in which I was engaged in Edmonton and Calgary until in 1961 I began theological training in Saskatoon. Graduating in 1964 I served as a pastor in Lutheran churches in Manitoba and Alberta. From 1942 and on, my life has been shared by my wife, the former Grace Hansen of Holden. We have five daughters: Lynne, Lois, Eunice, Darlene, and Avis. At this count there are seven granddaughters and one grandson. Retiring in 1978, Grace and I now reside in Edmonton.

Lynne and Darlene have their families in Calgary, Eunice on a farm in Manitoba, Lois and her husband are in Texas and Avis works in Vancouver. (The miles seem to add up on our car!)

Vernon began work in Edmonton in 1931. During World War II he served in the Canadian Armed Forces. He entered Normandy on D-Day, led the first Canadian tank troops into Germany. He received the French Croix de Guerre with Gold Star, and retired after the war with the rank of Major. Merlye Krolman joined him in marriage in 1949. They are now engaged in the Real Estate business in Florida. Their daughter Carole is a medical doctor while the son David, is a solar engineer.

Helen, Ruth, Harold and Paul attended Lyseng school. In 1937, when Father died after a brief illness, the family moved to Edmonton. In 1940 Mother returned to the Eriksson farm homestead at Hughenden with her four youngest children. Harold and Paul later attended University and Seminary in Saskatoon, where Mother kept house for them until her death from cancer in 1950. The bodies of both parents now rest in the cemetery at Fridhem church.

Helen trained as a deaconess, serving in the social service field. She later was employed for some years with the City of Edmonton in social service. She is now retired, residing in Edmonton.

Ruth married Lloyd Williams of Hughenden. They later lived at Wetaskiwin and Edmonton, Lloyd being a road building contractor. Two daughters, Joan and Donna, were born to them. Lloyd died in an air tragedy in 1953, when an ambulance plane bringing him from Grande Prairie crashed near Whitecourt. Joan and Donna each have two children. Ruth later married Lloyd Johnson. They live in Edmonton and have a son, Warren, a chemical engineer.

Harold and Paul are Lutheran pastors. Harold and his wife Peggie serve at Flin Flon. They have two sons, Philip and Mark, and one daughter, Naomi, all in Saskatchewan, also one grandchild.

Paul and his wife, Gae served at Nanaimo, British Columbia with their two youngest, Douglas and Beth. Daughter Christine lives at Westlock and Ann

in the Yukon. Their son, Ronald is a printer in Edmonton.

This is one family's transition from 1902 until 1981.

Gerhard Espereth

Gerhard Espereth was born in Norway. He worked for and rented the Olaf Pederson farm for a period of time.

Gerhard and his friend, Emil Lyseng, took a trip to Norway by ship and from oft-mentioned past reminiscences, they had a good time.

Later Gerhard farmed east of Camrose but decided to again go back to Norway. On this trip however, he became sick and passed away there.

Hanna and Lou Evers

Hanna Christina Anderson was born in Sweden on January 14, 1879 to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johann Anderson. She immigrated with her parents and twin sister, Marie, to the United States of America in 1883. She lived in the U.S. until 1904 when she came to the Armena district where her family had made their home since 1902.

When her uncle in Juneau, Alaska became a widower, Hanna moved there to help care for the children. After she returned home, she took employment as a cook at the Heather-Brae Hotel in Camrose. It was here that she met Lou Evers.

In 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson had moved to the acreage south of Fridhem Church and, as they were aging and needed companionship and care, Hanna came home and stayed with them until their passing.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Lou Evers, previously owned by Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Anderson.

Louis Evers was born in Bruce County, Ontario on December 26, 1868. He spent some time in the Dakotas before coming to Camrose in 1905. Lou was a very capable carpenter and there are many buildings standing today which are to his credit.

On November 28, 1922 Hanna and Lou were

married and they took up residence on the Anderson acreage south of the church. Lou purchased the John Ludvig Anderson farm, the NW ¼ of Section 10-48-20, W4, and took up farming. He was also the janitor at Fridhem Church for many years.

Hanna was very devoted to her church. She enjoyed gardening and especially flowers with which she regularly graced the altar in the church. Never a Christmas went by but the nieces and nephews anticipated a new pair of Aunt Hanna's knit mittens.



Hanna and Lou Evers 25th Anniversary.

On the occasion of their twenty-fifth anniversary, the congregation, relatives, and neighbors honored them with a program and festivities at the church.

Hanna passed away suddenly on July 11, 1954, at their home. Funeral services were held at Fridhem Church and interment took place there.

After Hanna's passing, Lou visited with relatives, in this area and also those in southern Alberta, before moving to Bethany Sunset Home. He died November 26, 1960, one month short of his 92nd birthday. He was laid to rest beside Hanna.

Aunt Hanna and Uncle Lou were very special, not only to their nieces and nephews but to many of the neighboring children also.

Emma Hendrickson and Eugene Ewald by Thea Young

Emma also was a teacher, born March 6, 1903, and she taught in several schools in Camrose area and other parts of Alberta. She married Eugene Ewald and they lived in Edmonton where Emma served at the Alberta Correspondence Department of the Department of Education. After Eugene's death in 1964 she moved to Rutland B.C. where she died August 23, 1975.

Michael and Sophie Famulak

Michael Famulak, son of John and Sofia (Galenza) Famulak, was born on July 23, 1898, in Strathcona (South Edmonton), Alberta. At an early age he came with his parents to the Ellswick district where they settled on the NW 6-48-21 W4. They later moved to the NE 1-48-21 W4. Michael, being the oldest boy in the family, was of great help to his parents during the early years of homesteading and farming.

In 1917, Famulaks bought the SW 7-48-21 W4 from Arthur Henry Ladell. The Famulak family then moved to this location. The Ellswick school was situated in the north-west corner of this quarter so the Famulak children did not have far to go to school.

On November 23, 1927, Michael married Sophie Hamula. They were married by Rev. Miksia in St. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church. After their marriage, they made their home on the SW 7-48-21 W4 where they resided for twenty years.

In August, 1930, their daughter, Marjorie, was born. In March, 1932, their son, Edwin, was born. In 1952, Michael and Sophie adopted Donald, at the age of four years.

Marjorie married William Wickland. They have four daughters and two sons, Monica, Michelle, Bart, Jacqueline, Annette, and Scott.

Edwin married Malina Fraser. They have two children, Neil and Janet, both of which are married. Edwin and Malina reside at Sherwood Park.

Donald is a registered electrician. He is married and has one son.

In 1947, Michael and Sophie sold the farm to Edward Galenza and bought two quarters of land is the Armena District, the NE ¼ of 10-48-21 W4 and the NW ¼ 11-48-21 W4. In 1951, they built a new house on the NE ¼ 10-48-21.

In 1960, Edwin joined his father in farming on a "father-son" partnership. That same year, Michael sold the NE 10-48-21 to Edwin and bought the SE ¼ 11-48-21 W4 from Harvey Cardiff. In the spring of 1961, Michael and Sophie moved to the "Cardiff" quarter. In 1970, they bought a house in Camrose and moved it to their farm. That same year a fire, of unknown origin, destroyed their barn. Because of the fire regulations, they had to rebuild the barn the same year. They resided on this farm until Michael's failing health forced him to rent the land to his sons, Edwin and Donald. Sophie found employment at Rosehaven in Camrose.

Michael passed away on October 13, 1978, at the age of eighty years. Sophie rented the land to Eldon Sinnamon for one year and then sold it to Mr. Bishop. She then moved to Camrose where she still resides. She still works part-time at Rosehaven.

While living in the Armena area, Sophie joined the Armena Willing Workers, and has remained an active member of the organization to the present.

The Thomas Farguson Family by Inga Farguson

Tom was born and raised on a farm south of Camrose, Alberta and I on a farm north of Ohaton, Alberta. He bought our farm from Edwin Hong in 1937. It is located on N.E. ¼ Sec. 20-47-20 W4. We were married in 1938 and lived there until 1948 when we moved to a farm ten miles southwest of Brandon, Manitoba where I still reside. We retired from active farming in 1973 but continued to live here. Our youngest son, Murray, took over the farm.



40th Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Farguson, 1978.

We celebrated our fortieth anniversary in 1978. Our family consists of one daughter and four sons:

Leone, graduated in Teacher's training in 1959. She married Jan Loman in 1964. They operated a general store in the tourist area of Ear Falls, Ontario.

Bill, after completing high school worked for Manitoba Hydro and lives on a small farm in Balmoral, northwest of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dennis, graduated from the University of Brandon in 1968 with a B. Ed. degree. He teaches in the Swan River Division and has a small grain farm as a sideline near Benito, Manitoba.

Richard is a steam fitter and works mostly in Alberta.

Murray operates the home farm.

We have ten grandchildren.

Tom passed away in January, 1981, shortly after his seventieth birthday, after many years of ill health.

The Peder Forre Family by Sherman Forre

Following their exploratory visit to Alberta in 1907 the Peder Forre family decided in March, 1913,



The Peder Forre family in Newman Grove, Nebraska in 1902. Lewis, Peder Forre, Gunda, Mabel, and Ferdinand and Mrs. Emma Forre.

to return permanently to Canada and to develop the half-section of land that was purchased in the South Holden area, later to become known as the Palmer School District.

For a period of nearly two years, they lived on a farm south and east of Armena now owned by Francis Spruyt. In the intervening years, this property has undergone quite a few changes and few, if any, of the old frame buildings remain. In their places are attractive and well-kept buildings located in a beautifully landscaped yard. The original log-house has been built on to; to make a beautiful modern home.

The move from Newman Grove, Nebraska to Armena was yet another event in the Peder Forre family. With a family of six children, the youngest being six months old, they arrived in a settlers' rail-car with their worldly possessions, limited to absolute essentials, which included four horses, two roosters, and a dozen hens. The luxury items were a two-seater democrat buggy and a single-seater convertible-top buggy. A picture of Lewis and Ferdinand Forre going to confirmation classes in this buggy in the winter in Newman Grove, Nebraska, appears elsewhere. The top buggy found its way to the Stan Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin and may still be on exhibit there.

One of the roosters, "Barney", became quite a



Sherman Forre, Armena-Get-ee-up Rooster.

house pet and preferred spending as much time as he was allowed in the kitchen, rather than running with the flock. A picture of Barney hitched to a home-made child's wagon with Sherman Forre as his passenger, appears elsewhere.

The lure of relatively inexpensive raw land proved to be a major hardship to most of the settlers who had decided to migrate from the United States. In those days the winters were longer and much more severe, mosquitos in great abundance came in the early summer and never left until the freeze-up. Transportation by way of oxen and later horse-drawn vehicles consumed endless hours particularly in the cold winter months, in travel for food supplies and visiting. The Peder Forres' had their initiation to this when they moved from Armena to Holden in the summer of 1914. With the help of his wife and older children, Peder Forre managed to set up a temporary farm site, fence the land, and break sod for cultivation and at the same time carry on farming operations at Armena. Though a new home added to the comforts of life as a pioneer, clearing and breaking land was a slow process, in particular, cutting down trees and underbrush, much of which was done in deep snow in the winter months.



Lewis and Ferdinand Forre in the convertible-top buggy.

Healthwise, it was devastating work and took its toll on Peder Forre, who in his prime years of life developed rheumatism, and was bedridden for ten years prior to his death in 1934. Mrs. Emma Forre passed away in 1951, Mrs. Gunda Hovland in 1927; Ferdinand Forre in 1966, and Lewis Forre in 1981. Towler Forre was born on the farm in the Palmer District and continues to reside there. Mrs. Mabel Meadahl lives in Camrose, Mrs. Emma Knudson at Ryley, and Sherman Forre in Camrose.

Elvin L. Fowler Family

by Leroy Fowler

Elvin L. Fowler came to the Camrose district in 1913 from Peterboro, Ontario, at the age of twenty-one years and went to work for the Lars Loveseth family on their farm four miles north of Camrose.

After marrying Jennie Loveseth in 1916, the Fowlers farmed briefly in the Baldenstein district. Elvin also did some land breaking and threshing with his steam engine and Rumley tractor.



Fowler and sons, Leroy and Lars, Elmer Olson at the steering wheel, Ervin Olson on the "Oscar Hough" plow, 1923.

The Fowlers gave up farming in 1926 and moved to Camrose when Elvin took over the John Deere Agency. The depression forced him to give up that business in the early thirties. He was subsequently employed by Gataas and Moxness, Forrester and Francouer, J. A. Code, and Schnell and Barrie in their respective machine agencies as a service mechanic.

After moving to Camrose, Jennie took a hair-dressing course and operated a hairdressing business until shortly before her death in 1953. Elvin lost his life in a highway traffic accident east of Camrose on Grey Cup day, 1954.

Elvin and Jennie had three sons, Leroy, Lars, and Dean. Leroy started his schooling at Baldenstein



Fowler operating his steam engine, 1924.

School with Joe Hanson as the teacher, and completed his schooling in Camrose. He joined the staff of Calgary Power Ltd. in Camrose in 1941 and moved to Provost in 1942.

Leroy married Isabel Walkemeyer, daughter of Ted and Cara Walkemeyer of Camrose. They have two daughters, Joan and Lois, and three grandchildren. Leroy retired from Calgary Power Ltd. in 1980 and they now live in Calgary.

Lars and Dean received their education in Camrose and both served in the Canadian Armed

Forces during World War II. After their discharge they operated a brush cutting business in the Camrose area until 1953. Lars then moved to Chemainus, B.C. and operated an auto wrecking business until 1980. He now has a used car dealership at Chemainus.

Lars married Margaret (Peggy) Marshall of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Lars and Peggy have two daughters, Helen and Lorraine, and two grandchildren.

After leaving Camrose in 1953, Dean farmed in the Pigeon Lake area for a couple of years and then moved to Drayton Valley, Alberta, and has worked in the oil rig-moving business since.

Dean married Goldie Caine of Ponoka, Alberta. They have five daughters, Carol, Sharon, Deana, Janice, and Julie Kim, and three grandchildren. Dean, Goldie, and Julie Kim now reside at Rocky Mountain House.

After moving from the Baldenstein district, the Fowler boys had the privilege of spending many week-ends and holidays at the Loveseth farms. They have many fond memories of fun and fellowship that they enjoyed at the neighborhood picnics, the numerous Christmas parties and dinners at neighbors, the threshing crews and especially the wonderful learning and living experiences they had with their Loveseth grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

The Harold Frostad Family by Dena (Frostad) Grue

After serving parishes from the Saskatchewan Prairies to the Peace River country, Pastor Frostad arrived in July of 1964 to serve the Armena Parish. It consisted of three congregations: Scandia, Bethlehem, and St. Joseph.

It was a pleasure to serve the Armena people whose whole families were involved in worship and who were so capable to independantly lead the auxiliaries. Pastor Frostad also remembers the fun and fellowship of the "Brotherhood" too.

Myrtle, his wife, especially enjoyed the beautiful house provided for their family. She led a teen choir at Scandia and a junior choir at St. Joseph. To be able to depend on such good organists and to hear beautiful numbers by the trio, the quartet and the men's chorus was also a real thrill because she loves music so much. Mrs. Frostad began the tradition of "Prelude to Christmas", an annual event which is still being held.

While in Armena, Kristine their youngest daughter, acquired a horse named "Patches" to raise and to train. A strange request was then brought to church council. It was to gain permission to build a horse stall in the front of the parsonage's garage. Permis-



The Fowler family, 1928. Elvin, Jenny, Leroy, Lars, Dean.



Harold Frostad family. Christine, Petrine, Peter, Dena, Myrtle, Harold.

sion was granted. But it was debateable who enjoyed the horse most - Kris to go riding with her friends, or the pastor to hitch up to the cutter and go out to George Lyseng's for coffee!

Peter, their only son, spent many evenings of his time flooding the ice at the Armena rink so he and his friends could play hockey. He also played baritone horn in the Rose City Band. When Mr. Jones came out to recruit several of the Armena youth for his band he was careful in assigning their instruments so that they could form a smaller group for playing at Armena functions. This they did and enjoyed it. However, Peter's contribution to the families' chores was to fill the coal stoker in the parsonage, and needless to say, he didn't enjoy that nearly as much!

Petrine, second oldest daughter, made her mark by setting the trends in fashion and hair-dos. Being a teen-ager in Armena was great fun! There were lots of skating parties in the wintertime (and there still are) and lots of handsome young men to take us for Honda rides in the summer.

Because I was thirteen when we came to Armena I can still remember the day very well. The nicest thing was being invited over to Ed Grue's for a delicious steak dinner. How I admired Karen for knocking on our door and saying, "Hi!. Welcome to Armena. My name is Karen Grue. We live right over there and we'd like you to come for dinner." I thought they were so nice and that same night Evert Grue came over to look at the furnace. He was a trustee. I remember thinking to myself, "These Grue men are so nice I think I just might end up marrying one." In the meantime I was busy going to High School in Hay Lakes. I taught Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. At a curling bonspiel in Hay Lakes I met Gerry Grue, a cousin to the Armena Grue's. When my father accepted the call to go to Duval, Saskatchewan, I persuaded him to let me stay in Camrose for grade twelve at C.L.C.

I was interested in more than my education and we were married in 1968. We farmed at Hay Lakes for eight years and then moved to Armena with our three sons, Steven, Michael and Paul. We are very happy to be living here in the house that Oliver Grue built and to be raising our family in the Armena community.

Frank and Klementine Fuernkranz from an interview with Frank and Klementine

In 1910, Frank Fuernkranz was born at Mailberg, Austria. He left home, at the age of fourteen years, to apprentice as a baker in Vienna. This was a three-year course, two and one-half years of which were spent taking a business course and the remaining one-half year in practice sessions. He received no pay during the apprenticeship but following that, he was well paid at one hundred forty shillings per month plus his room and board.

In his younger years, he, like so many others, had the wander-lust but to go to another country in Europe would have to be as an exchange student. In 1930, Frank joined his brother, Carl, at Hay Lakes. He was not allowed to get off the train anywhere except at his destination because he came as a farm worker to this specified place. He took a job with August Schmidt of New Sarepta and later with Karl Clemmer.

In the fall of 1932, Frank rented the farm of Mr. Severt Kringen and bought the horses and machinery. His cozy little bachelor's shack was Mr. Kringen's old milkhouse, which they moved closer to the trees. When Mr. Kringen died, Frank rented the farm from the Kringen sisters and farmed this for five years.

All this time, Frank had in mind his darling Klementine, whom he had left in Austria. She was born in 1911 at Nappersdorf, only three kilometres from Frank's home. In 1937, Frank made a deposit of \$250.00 with the Department of Immigration of Canada to get his bride-to-be to come here. Stipulations were that they must marry within six weeks of her arrival or he would have to forfeit his money and Klementine would have to return to Austria. She arrived and on June 16, 1937, Frank and Klementine were married in Hay Lakes. Frank's money was returned to him.

They were royally showered at the Kringen farm and they were ushered from Frank's shack to the grounds in a man-powered buggy. We are told that many friends, neighbors, and relatives signed the guest book at the biggest shower ever to be held in the community. A special feature of the evening was the singing of "Oh my darling, Klementine" by a group of local girls.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fuernkranz and Frank Jr.

In the spring of 1938, they moved to their recently purchased farm, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 4-49-21-W4 and the north half of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 4-49-21-W4, at Hay Lakes.

In 1939, Frank Junior was born. He took his first five years of schooling at Swan Hill School; Thelma Kjolien was his teacher. The next five years were spent at Hay Lakes before attending the Camrose Lutheran College. Continuing his education, he entered into the field of Accounting. Frank is married and lives at Mississauga, Ontario, where he is Assistant General Manager of Innmont Canada Ltd. He and his wife have three children. Frank's family were among those who were evacuated from their homes during the train wreck in 1979.

Frank and Klementine and their son, Frank Jr., returned to Austria, their homeland, for a visit in 1954.

In May, 1956 they purchased a home in Camrose. Frank worked for fourteen years with Dennis Ofrim Construction. In 1978, he sold his farm to a niece, Marlene, and her husband, Dieter Gruenberg. Frank walks downtown every day and enjoys having a cup of coffee with the fellows.

William Gardner History story by Mrs. Mildred Schlitt

The William Gardner family were of Huguenot ancestry (French Protestant) from the countries of France and Holland.

William Gardner was born in Lansdown, Ontario on September 21, 1873. He married Mary Elizabeth Jackson, born on October 4, 1875. They had a family of ten children, the four eldest being born in Ontario.

For two years before moving to Alberta, he was

employed as a salesman for the McCormick Deering Implement Company. Then in 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner moved to Calgary, Alberta, where they lived until 1909 when they decided to live in Cardston, Alberta. In 1918, Mr. Gardner bought raw C.P.R. land from Mr. Steve Martin of Camrose. This land was located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 17-47-20-W4, and with it they obtained the mineral rights for the price of one dollar (\$1.00). The family lived further east on a farm rented from George Shea.

They started a Dairy business known as the Woodland Dairy, formerly owned by Lawrence Shaw, for the years of 1920 and 1921. Meanwhile, the



Gardner dairy thief caught in the act.



Gardner's milk delivery, 1920-1921. Glen and George Gardner.

family had moved to Camrose to live. The milk and cream was hauled from the farm, to a small milk-house, located behind their house in town, where it was first bottled and then delivered. They received ten cents a quart or twelve quarts for one dollar (\$1.00). The dairy business was sold shortly after and William Gardner then became manager of an implement company, and also served as Bailiff in Camrose.

The Gardner children enjoyed many outings to the home farm. An interesting little story concerns Annie when she was a young girl. One Sunday, the family had gathered at the farm to have a picnic. Annie was sitting in the swing and at the same time



William Gardner family 1926.

was learning to knit. She had knit several inches when her father noticed it and reprimanded her. He ordered her to unravel all of it and was told that she was not allowed to work on the Lord's Day of Rest.

Many of the early settlers had their own methods of substitution for the modern bathtub. On a hot sunny day two large washtubs would be filled with water in the morning and left to gather the sun's warmth all day. In the evening, the men and boys had plenty of warm water with which to wash and splash themselves. No doubt it also became a time of great fun!

The Gardner family consisted of Mildred (Hamel-Moxness) Schlitt, Glen, Stella (Ellwood) Fisher, Annie Hamilton, William Floyd, Clifford, George, Frederick, and Charles Russell.

William Gardner passed away in Camrose on February 6, 1937. Floyd Gardner bought the farm after his father's death and he and his mother lived there a few years. The land was later sold to Laurie Byers.

Mrs. William Gardner passed away in Lethbridge, Alberta on April 30, 1952.

Henry Giesbrecht Family

The summer of 1975 was an exciting year for us; we moved to the Armena district to begin a new phase in our life — farming.

Henry was raised on a farm in Saskatchewan and always looked forward to one day returning to that way of life. Sylvia's home was in Vermilion, where we met, married, and our first daughter, Cheryl, was born. From there we moved to Calgary where our second daughter, Carla, was born. In 1971 we moved to Sundre, Alberta and operated Sundre Auto Body for four years. We then moved to the Chester Thronson farm here in the Armena district. The girls attended Hay Lakes School, from which Cheryl graduated in 1980. She is presently in training at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. Carla took her grade twelve at Prairie High in Three Hills and graduated in 1981. She is employed at Rosehaven Care Center in Camrose.

After having lived in a small town and the big city, we all thoroughly enjoy the country life!

The Robert Gilbertson Family

In 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Bob) Gilbertson, Heather and Larry moved on to a farm in the area between Bittern Lake and Armena. They rented a farm from Ronald Gould, an Englishman. Robert Smithson lived north and Albert Galenza to the west of them. They raised cattle, sheep and grain. The picture shows Billy the calf, Heather, Bob with his milkpail, Willy the lamb and Larry with his cat. The second picture shows Bob and Thelma with Larry after church one Sunday. They attended the Church of God in Camrose.



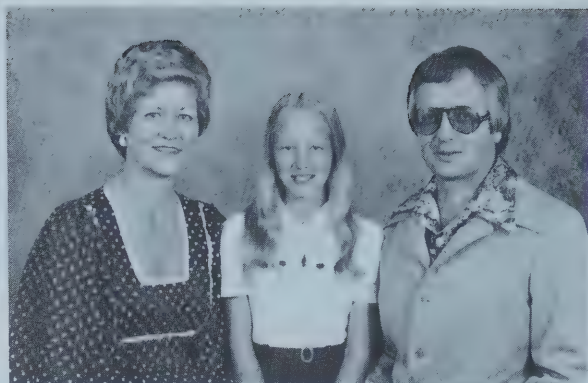
Bob, Larry, and Thelma Gilbertson.

Heather attended the Armena School for Grade VII, and she recalls that Adolph Peterson and Robert Lyseng were the bus drivers. It was here that Heather met her future husband John, younger son of Robert Lyseng.

1951 was the year of the "Big Snow". In some places the snow was piled up to the telephone wires, and roads were impassable in many places. Edward Lyseng died that year and the funeral had to be postponed until the roads could be opened up. School buses could not get through and Heather recalls staying at Dick Ericksons with Cecile Widman for four days. Finally her father came for her with a stone boat pulled by a horse, and on the way picked up some groceries from the Armena store. Heather writes: "The horse sensed the problems involved and carefully picked his steps all the way home." They had little trouble except the "baggage" falling off now and then.

The family enjoyed the social life of the community. Skating parties, box socials, talent nights and ball games were some of the events. They found the people extremely friendly and helpful.

After a couple years Bob moved his family to Camrose where he started the Camrose Decorator Business, which was very successful and which he



Heather (Gilbertson), Pamela, John Lyseng.

carried on for some years. For some time now the family has all lived in British Columbia.

Heather became Mrs. John Lyseng in December 1960. They have one daughter Pamela Lynn born in 1966. They lived in Edmonton for a short time then were transferred to Vancouver. From 1966 to 1969 they lived in Prince George, B.C. then moved back to Vancouver and built a lovely home in Port Coquitlam. John has been employed by International Harvester Company through the years and for several years now has been Office Manager of a subsidiary company, Pacific Truck and Trailer Ltd. located in North Vancouver. Heather has worked part time for the Bank of Montreal, and now in the Port Moody branch of the Royal Bank. In July of 1981 they moved to Vernon, B.C. where John is employed by Bloom and Sigalet an International Harvester Dealership.

Larry moved to Vancouver while still quite young, married a Vancouver girl, and they have three children.

Velma (Jornlin) Gooch

I was born at Brookings, So. Dakota in February, 1914 and was brought to Canada in the fall of 1915. Consequently, I was one of those pioneer children reared in the Dinant-Armena district.

My personal childhood memories are similar to those of others in my generation. I recall watching my father and brothers brand the cattle and bell a cow, clear the land with an axe, dynamite and a stump-puller, butcher a pig and cut up the meat, drive ten-horse teams in the field . . . I remember snaring gophers, picking wild berries, walking on stilts, pulling up mustard plants on a hot July day, going with our Dad in the Model T to buy groceries for a week from the proceeds of a can of cream . . . I remember exploring a heavily treed quarter nearby, counting birds' nests, racing to the school at the sound of the bell and lining up at the door . . . I especially remember smelling the hot loaves of bread just out of my mother's oven, pulling out overshoes and hand-knit

mitten for sledding on sparkling, snowy-fresh hills, tingling to the excitement of performing in Christmas concerts at school and church. All these, and many more, are the happy memories that crowd in on me, as I write of my little part in the community's history.

At fourteen I was privileged to go off to Camrose for high school education and Normal School training. My teaching career has extended over a forty year period at various locations: Busk, Lyseng, Horicon and McLennan grade schools (eight years), Camrose Lutheran College (nineteen years), and as Associate Professor in the University of Victoria (fourteen years). By 1972 I managed to complete my Ph.D. in Manchester, England, as my final step of training.

While teaching in McLennan, I met Victor Gooch, a railway engineer formerly of Hardisty, and in 1942 we were married. However, in 1945, after a busy war-time career (transporting building materials for the Alaska Highway and running troops and jeeps northward over the railroad), he succumbed to a heart attack. I returned to Camrose where my two sons grew up. They were educated there and at the University of Alberta.

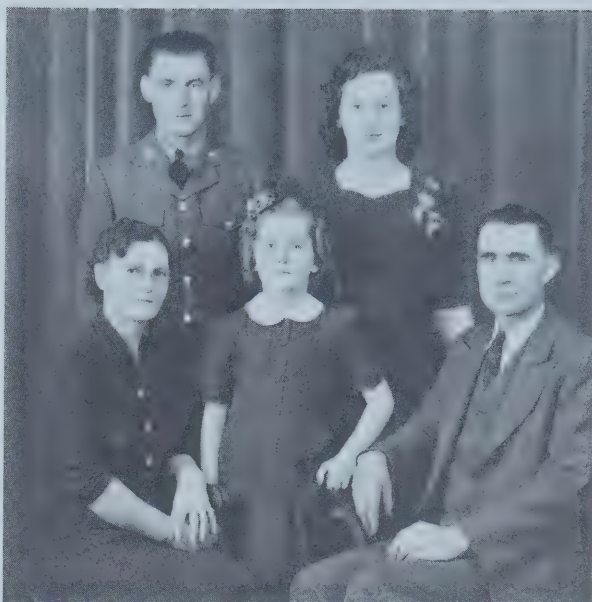
Stanley, born in December, 1943 at McLennan, has been with the Department of External Affairs since 1966, serving in Canadian embassies at Buenos Aires, Belgrade, and presently as Counsellor in Vienna. He and his wife, the former Nancy Nix, a nurse from Edmonton, have two sons: Christopher (twelve) and Robert (eleven).

Victor, born in April, 1946 at Camrose, is presently Advisor in the Department of the Solicitor General in Ottawa. He married an Ottawan girl, the former Beverly Paton, who is also an administrative officer with the federal government.

Thor and Mabel Grahm

In 1936 Thor Grahm bought the NE ¼ 32-47-21 W4 from Carl Andreason, who had homesteaded this quarter in 1902. Thor and Mabel, along with their family of Lloyd, Hazel, and June, moved from Hay Lakes to their farm, west of Armena, the following spring.

The district was not entirely new to either one of the parents. Mabel (Nelson) Grahm lived and grew up on her father's homestead, four miles south of Hay Lakes. This land was later owned by Mr. and Mrs. Anton Pasula. Mabel, at eight years of age, attended Thordenskjold School for a few years as this was the only school in the area. Later Ellswick opened and, being closer to home, she finished her schooling there. In the early days it was quite usual for little girls to wear aprons over their long dresses to school. Mabel recalled with amusement, the time she and her



Thor, June and Mabel Grahm, 1942.

sister left their aprons hanging in a tree while they went on to school. Her parents came by at closing time to give the girls a ride home. Noticing the missing aprons, her mother quickly understood how they felt and they never had to wear them again.

Thor Grahm, as a young man of eighteen years, also attended Thordenskjold but only for three months. He stayed with Hans Mortenson during one winter, helped with the chores and went to school. Mr. Mortenson lived on the quarter where Mr. and Mrs. Brian Welda and family now reside.

Thor and Mabel farmed here until 1948 with the exception of almost two years during the war when they lived in Hay Lakes and he was a part-time grain buyer. They often spoke of their years on the farm and in the community as a very special time in their lives.

They moved to Camrose and in 1955 to Edmonton where Thor passed away in 1957 at sixty-four years and Mabel in 1970 at seventy-one years.

Lloyd and Lillian Grahm

Lloyd, son of Thor and Mabel Grahm of Hay Lakes, was born in 1920 on the farm belonging to his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson. When he was four years old they moved to Kingman and they remained there for several years. At sixteen, Lloyd moved with his parents to the farm in the Armena district. This was a new experience, having grown up in a small town.

The first winter on the farm, he went to Dinant for a load of coal with a team and sleigh. Everyone took a lunch along, if they lived quite a distance away,



1971 — Lloyd Grahm family. Left to Right: Bob, Tim, Jane, Terry, Dan, Lill, and Lloyd. Front: Bill.

when they went to the mine in those days. However, when Lloyd opened his lunch kit the thermos had leaked and everything in it was wet. Arnt Moe was also there that day, and realizing what had happened, he generously shared his lunch and coffee with Lloyd.

Lloyd served three and one-half years with the army in Canada. After the war he continued to farm, renting and later buying the land from his Dad. In 1949 he married Lillian Naslund who was born and raised on her parents' farm east of Hay Lakes. Through the years they have farmed with the help of their two daughters and four sons. One of their highlights was rural electrification which brought such a good change to the way of life on the farm.

The family all attended Armena School but by the time the oldest had finished grade eight the high school here had been closed so they were taken to Hay Lakes for further grades. The Grahm family now consists of Jane and Chris Christenson and Rebecca, Jennifer and Amy of Kingman, Terry and Bob Netherton and Holly of Jasper, Dan and Lorraine Grahm and Andrew of Peace River, Bob and Brenda Grahm of Edmonton, and Tim and Bill Grahm of Edmonton.

Jean (Lyseng) Green and Donald Green

Jean after graduating from C.L.C. and the Misericordia School of Nursing, with a friend, made a trip overseas and shortly after returning married Donald Afton Green of Meeting Creek. Jean Oline, eldest daughter of Kenneth and Hazel Lyseng and Donald Green of Meeting Creek were married June 27, 1953 in the old Scandia Church. After farming for two years north of Meeting Creek Don went back to teaching at his home school. During this time their two eldest children were born, Brian and Barbara. In 1956, after being accepted by the Department of

Northern Affairs and a six weeks training course in Edmonton, Don and family left for Coppermine, North West Territories, where he served as Welfare Principal in the Federal Day School for two years. Following Jean's father's death, the family with another son Kenneth returned to the parental home at Armena where Don joined the teaching staff, later becoming principal, a position he held until the Armena School closed and he was transferred to Hay Lakes where he taught until 1979 when ill health forced him to take leave of absence. In 1962 they bought and moved into the Klemmet Lyseng farm home just north of the school, their family now complete with David and Beverly. Don's many interests include farming, hunting and fishing, and helping along at the church. They enjoy travelling, visiting and his part time job as dairy representative with the Camrose Auction Company. Jean has nursed part time off and on over the years and is presently employed by Bethany Nursing Home as head nurse. Information about Jean and Don's family follows.

Following graduation from Camrose Composite High School, Brian took up cabinet building. Becoming interested in aviation he got his pilot's and instructor's licence, teaching in Drayton Valley. He tried his hand at crop spraying and later qualified as a helicopter pilot.

Barbara, after working for the Agricultural Development Corporation in Camrose, spent six months in Switzerland under the Canadian Agricultural Youth Exchange, returning a year later for a three month tour of Greece and Israel. She has made her home in Drayton Valley since her marriage to Jim Frederickson, in 1976, except for a six month period when they toured South America. They have one daughter Kara Lee.

After high school graduation Ken enrolled in the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology as an Animal Technologist and is presently working in research with Petro-Canada in Calgary.

David is the Armena Cowboy, riding saddle bronc in Rodeo Circuits, touring Western Canada and the U.S.A. In 1980 he ranked fifth in the national finals held in Edmonton. In between times he helps out on the family farm.

After graduation, Beverly worked for a year for General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) in Edmonton before her marriage to Cliff Drever of Camrose in 1980. They are establishing themselves in farming south of Hardisty.

Thore Grue Family by Nels Grue

Thore S. Grue was born near Roros, Norway, July 27, 1853, to parents, Simon and Olava Grue. He

was baptized there in the parish church, August 19, the same year. He was confirmed on July 7, 1868, in the cathedral at Roros.

In 1868, the family immigrated to America and settled for a short time at Decora, Iowa and later moved to the frontier settlement of Minnesota. They homesteaded a few miles east of Dalton, Minnesota. There they lived for about thirty-five years. Many years of hard labour and many hardships faced them as they settled in the new frontier.

In 1876, father purchased one half section near the town of Wendell, Minnesota. It was developed into a beautiful farmstead, with five acres of planted trees and shrubs.

In 1881, Father was united in marriage to Berit Mikkelson of Lake Park, Minnesota.

To this marriage were born seven children; Simon, Lars, Oscar, Bella, Theodore, Nels, and Josephine.

Mother was born in Osterdalen, Norway, September 12, 1861, to parents Lars and Berit Mikkelson. In 1870 she immigrated to America as a teenager with the family in a small sailboat. Crossing the Atlantic took several weeks. They settled on a homestead near Lake Park, Minnesota.

Father and Mother continued living on the farm at Wendell until the year 1893. They sold the farm and moved the following year with their family, and father's aged parents, Simon and Olava Grue, to what was then Northwest Territories, Canada.



Thore and Beret Grue family, 1893. Oscar, Theodore, Bella, Simon and Lars.

They traveled from Winnipeg to Wetaskiwin via Calgary, on a Canadian Pacific immigrant train. It consisted of freight cars, carrying the immigrant's possessions, and a few old passenger cars to accommodate the immigrants.

There were times the train would come to a stop, when passengers were politely asked to step out and walk, while the train would pass over certain stretches of track in deplorable condition. Other times it would come to a stop for the shooting of prairie chickens by the train crew.

They arrived in Wetaskiwin where a large tent had been set up by the Federal Government to accommodate the settlers at no charge, until they could locate land.

Wetaskiwin was two years old at the time of their arrival. It became a taking off point for the many settlers that arrived during the following years.

The railway was built to Strathcona, now South Edmonton, where a town had been established. The Hudson Bay Fort was located on the north side of the Saskatchewan River, south of the present Legislative Buildings. There were also a few business places established there. The first Hudson Bay store, the building where the first newspaper was published, the Edmonton Bulletin, with Frank Oliver as its publisher, was one and a few others.

Modern Edmonton dates back to 1871, when the little old pioneer church was built under the ministry of Reverend George McDougall Church, pioneer Methodist Missionary of the West. It was located near the present McDougall Church, overlooking the beautiful valley of the North Saskatchewan River. Homestead lands were available where the city proper stands today.

In spite of this fact, it was Father's wish to locate where there were no previous settlers, where a colony could be established with a church and school. Father's wish was fulfilled in this regard.

There were land guides stationed in Wetaskiwin with teams and buggies to take land seekers out and help them locate.

Father took as his homestead the NW-¼-12-48-21-W4, while grandfather homesteaded the NE-½ of the same section.

Going back to Wetaskiwin, paying \$10.00 per quarter section at the land title's office, gave them a conditioned right to their land. A certain amount of improvements to the land as to buildings and cultivation had to be made for a period of three years, before a title would be granted.

He brought the family to what was to be their new home being three-fourths of a mile north of the present hamlet of Armena. They arrived at 2 A.M. on

May 17, 1894. They became the first settlers at Armena in the Camrose-North district.

I will mention here that Ole Movold, a cousin of my father, also arrived here in the company of our family. He took as his homestead the NW-¼-14-48-21-W4. Not having brought his family he went back to the States and brought them later the same year.

The first meal the family partook of at the homestead was prepared by Ole Movold, and served at the early hour of their arrival mentioned above. Among other things, the main dish was duck soup. He had remained at the homestead for this purpose.

The first task at hand was to build a temporary home. A 16' x 18', with lean-to log building was erected for the family and also a two-storeyed log house was erected for the grandparents.

Wetaskiwin grew rapidly as the many settlers arrived. It truly became a frontier town. It soon had a flour mill that served the settlers well. It became our nearest town for the first eleven years until Camrose came into being in 1905. They also took their mail there until 1898, when Ernest Roper set up a general store and post office near the east shore of Bittern Lake.

The following year after their arrival Father went back to Minnesota where they had left behind two threshing outfits. They had threshed both in Minnesota and North Dakota. He disposed of the larger outfit, and brought the smaller J. I. Case, with him back to Canada where it was put to good use. He had the only binder and threshing outfit between Wetaskiwin and today's City of Camrose. He did some custom work.

He had his own sawmill which was first set up at the homestead. In 1902, it was moved to a small lake called at the time "White Water Lake". It was about eight or ten miles west of the Village of Hay Lakes, where plenty of spruce logs were there for the taking. Later the mill was moved to a location on the north shore of Miquelon Lake. He also had a planing mill, and manufactured his own shingle and lath. Much lumber was sawed and planed for the needs of the new settlement.

In 1898, Father built his first real home in Alberta from spruce logs brought from White Water Lake. These were sawed on his sawmill, together with all other lumber needed for the building of the house. This being the oldest completed house in the district, can now be seen at the museum grounds in Camrose. It was moved there November 1, 1978.

Our home often served as overnight stopping place for travelers from Round Hill, Bardo, near Tofield and other communities; who traveled to and from Wetaskiwin.



Thore Grue first lived in a small log house. This house was built by Grue about 1898 and was later moved a few hundred yards west. It was bought by Knut Lyseng and then by his son, Carl, who married Ragna Foss in 1910. Carl and Ragna lived there until ill health forced them to move to Bethany Home. Their home was given to the Camrose Museum in 1978.

As previously mentioned Father and Mother wanted to settle where Church and school could be started.

The first Lutheran Church service was held at their home on March 3, 1895, by the elderly Pastor Bersvend Anderson from Bardo, near Tofield. Church services were continued in the homes until 1898.

Father started a Sunday School with himself and Mrs. Andrew Boe as teachers. This work was carried on for several years and was the beginning of the present "Scandia Sunday School". He also organized a church choir at about the same time and was its leader for several years.

After the Thordenskjold School was built, in 1898, the church services were then held in the school from May 14, 1898, until the church was built in 1904-05.

On May 14, 1898, the congregation, although not yet organized, was called Scandia. That name was also adopted when the congregation organized on October 26, 1901.

By the year 1898, a cemetery had been established by the early settlers on section 2-48-21-W4 being about three-quarters of a mile Southwest of the hamlet of Armena.

On 1903 Father sold the homestead at Armena and bought the north half and the southeast quarter of section 8-48-20-W4, which was about two miles farther east. We moved there the same year.

This almost became like another frontier, all new buildings had to be erected, land had to be cleared and broken, ready for cultivation and fenced.

The first thing at hand was to set up the sawmill, planing and shingle mills, to provide building materials.



Nels Grue's home on the farm.

The Flour Mill

The first flour mill he owned was not modern. It was set upon large pillars to a height of about twelve feet with lumber enclosure. It was driven from a 12 foot five inch vertical shaft. The grinding stones measured about four and half feet in diameter and a thickness of about twelve inches, unfortunately this was destroyed by fire. Father purchased another flour mill which was quite modern. A large two storey building was erected, with the mill on the second floor and the sifters on the first floor. The sifter, of his own manufacturing, produced the different grades of flour, cream of wheat, and bran. He also had a feed mill in conjunction with the flour mill. A grain elevator would elevate the grain up over the building where two large hoppers were located. The grain was brought down to the feed mill or flour mill by gravity. The feed mill, flour mill, elevator, and woodsaw were all operated at one time if needed.

At this time Father had purchased a new J. I. Case threshing outfit and this engine was then used to power the flour mill.

Grain would be brought from a distance of up to twenty miles to be ground into flour, or feed for livestock. The building provided ample space for storage of grain and flour.

During summer the engine was put to work clearing and breaking land at home and also at custom work. The large trees would be pulled out by the engine, while smaller trees and brush were cut by the brushcutter. The brushcutter was of Father's own manufacturing and worked very satisfactorily.

Father contracted to clear and break the half sec-

tion lying parallel to the C.P.R. tracks on the north side from 53 St. Camrose, one mile west known as the Tom Duggan farm. My older brothers and some hired help did the breaking while father did the blacksmith and the machine work.

When fall arrived the threshing season began. When the stooks were threshed they would turn to the stacked grain, which would continue in some years almost until Christmas time.

As all my brothers had farms of their own, Father sold the farm. The homeplace was taken over by myself, in 1919.

We know that the loneliness and the many hardships endured by our parents was not in vain, but to the benefit of their families and the generations to follow.

Later Father and Mothers' life came to an end here on earth, Father passed away December 23, 1932, and Mother passed away July 23, 1952. They were both buried at the Scandia Cemetery north of the hamlet of Armena across the roadway from their homestead.

Simon and Berthea Grue

submitted by Bertha Stavne and Irene Grue

Simon Grue was born in Grand County near Wendell, Minnesota, U.S.A., on February 7, 1885. He came to Alberta, Canada in 1894 with his parents, Thore and Beret Grue, three brothers, Lars, Theodore, and Oscar, one sister, Bella, and his aged grandparents. A younger brother, Nels, and a sister, Josephine, were born at Armena.

They settled on Thore's homestead, NW 12-48-21 W4, seven miles north and five miles west of Camrose, in what is now the Armena district, and thus became some of the first settlers in that area.

Simon received his education at Thordenskjold School which was built of logs sawed on his father's sawmill.

Thore Grue owned a steam engine which was brought from Minnesota. Simon, being the eldest son, was the engineer, at the age of sixteen years. In 1901, they moved the sawmill to White Water Lake, here spruce logs were plentiful. Later the sawmill was moved to the north shore of Miquelon Lake where much lumber was sawed for the needs of the community.

In April, 1903, Simon chose a homestead located south-east of Hay Lakes on the NW 32-48-21 W4. Later he purchased the quarter-section east, adjoining the homestead, where he made his home and engaged in mixed farming. He also planted an orchard of many varieties of apples, plums, and cherries.

On December 21, 1911, at the home of the bride,

Simon was united in marriage to Berthea Broen. Berthea was born at Owego, North Dakota on May 5, 1886 to parents, Gina and Christian Broen. She came to Alberta, Canada in 1909, making her home with her father, sisters and brothers who had arrived earlier to farm north of Armena. In 1893, Gina Broen passed away in the U.S.A., at the age of thirty-nine years, leaving Christian and eight young children.

Simon and Berthea were active members of St. Joseph Lutheran Church. Simon was known for his love of music, he enjoyed singing solos and with church choirs, and was a member of the Maple Leaf Band, under the leadership of Cornelius Grue, in the early days. He was keenly interested in community and international affairs, actively supporting the United Farmers of Alberta and the political party, the Canadian Cooperative Federation. In early years he served on the Camrose Lutheran College Board and later at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute.

Berthea was a dressmaker and enjoyed quilt and rug making also. Flowers and vegetable gardening were also hobbies of her's.



Mr. and Mrs. Simon Grue, Bertha and Irene.

Two daughters, Bertha and Irene, were born to Berthea and Simon. Bertha, the elder, was born September 14, 1912 at Hay Lakes. She attended school in Hay Lakes. She was a Luther League member of St. Joseph Lutheran Church and the choir, as well as the Armena parish choir. She taught Sunday School for several years and sang in the Grue quartet along with Olga, Lars, and Simon Grue. On

August 4, 1938 Bertha married Raymond Stavne of Armena. They made their home one mile south-east of Hay Lakes, on the land which was homesteaded by Simon, where they still reside. Bertha's hobbies are gardening in the summer months and sewing, knitting, and crocheting during the winter. To their union one daughter, Sharon, was born on March 10, 1948 at Camrose. She married Donald Anderson of Edberg on August 8, 1970. with their family of three children, Kelly, Darcy, and Twyla, they live in a farm north-west of Edberg.

Irene Grue, younger daughter of Simon and Berthea, was born May 5, 1918, at Hay Lakes. She received her education at Hay Lakes School and took piano lessons from Mrs. D. G. Braun who came from Edmonton once a week. She sang in St. Joseph Church Choir and the Armena parish choir and also taught Sunday School.

Irene resided on the farm with her parents until her mother passed away on May 29, 1943. She continued to make her home with her dad, helping with the work until they sold the farm and purchased a home in Camrose where they moved in January, 1970. Irene is now a member of Messiah Lutheran Church, L.C.W. circle, and the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute Auxiliary. Her hobbies are hand-crafts, sewing, music, and gardening.

Simon was actively engaged in farming operations until he was in his early eighties. In October 1974, he became a resident of Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Camrose. He passed away there on January 2, 1980 at the age of ninety-four years and eleven months.

Oscar and Annie Grue

Oscar was born at Elbow Lake, Minnesota, March 13, 1889. He came to the Armena district in 1894 with his parents Thore and Beret Grue and his grandparents, Simon and Olava Grue.

They homesteaded on what is now the Ivan Lyseng farm. There he grew up with his family, receiving his schooling in the Thordenskjold school. His recollection of the sod-roofed log house goes like this:

"When Grandma moved into the 16 by 18 foot house, she said, "I am so glad we have a roof overhead again." But her joy soon disappeared as we got a rain shower in the night and the roof was poles and leaf branches of the trees, sod, and clay from the cellar and you can imagine what a mess. It started to run so we had running water for awhile, with the clay mixed into it. Mother put an oilcloth over the bed. After a few showers, the roof got pretty good. We three boys had a box bed built to fit under the folks' bed."

Annie Lindgren was born in Svea, Minnesota on March 27, 1892. She came to Canada with her parents, Olaf and Anna Lindgren, when she was fourteen years of age. They lived at Calmar, later coming to serve the Fridhem congregation. Pastor Olaf Lindgren farmed what later became the Falkenberg place.

Oscar and Annie were married in Czar in 1911. Their twelve by twelve home at Czar was furnished with two appleboxes for chairs, a homemade table, a cookstove, a homemade bed and a straw mattress.

The same fall, money received as wedding presents was used for buying furniture. Eight chairs cost seventy-five cents each, a dining table for nine dollars, a sewing machine for nineteen and a washstand for nine dollars.

Their honeymoon trip to Camrose in September took three days by wagon. Of it Oscar says, "We talked and laughed and everything was fun."

In 1912, he loaded a boxcar at Camrose for Czar which consisted of lumber, a wagon, a bobsleigh, old mower, old buggy, two small horses, two colts, one cow, one calf, some oats and ten bushels of seed wheat. He felt so undeserving of these gifts, that tears ran down his face when he said goodbye to his dad.

They built a modern house two miles north of Czar in 1917. It was there they raised their children Bethora, Doris, Evert, Edwin and Marvin. Annie had her leg amputated in January of 1944, just a few months before their move back to Armena. Evert rented the Movold place, so it was there that they lived until 1947.



Oscar Grue family, 1944. Doris, Edwin, Bethora, Marvin, Oscar, Annie, Evert.

In 1945, Oscar began shipping cattle and hogs for the Livestock Co-op at Armena.

When Adolph and Doris Peterson came from Czar, they lived on the Movold farm, so Oscar and Annie lived in the skating house in Armena while they built a basement under, and added on to, the Alberta Pool house.

After their house was done, Oscar began doing carpenter work. He worked on the new Alberta Wheat Pool house, the Armena school, and later he built Ed and Pearl's house and a small house for Evert and Ruth. During 1950 and 1951 Oscar and Annie lived in Edmonton while Oscar worked for Alldritt Construction Company. In 1952 he built a house for Evert and Ruth in Armena. The next year, he built Oliver and Mary Grue's new home. That same fall, Oscar and Annie sold their house to John Paulsons so he built a new house for themselves. Oscar was working in Edmonton as a carpenter when Annie passed away August 12, 1957.

Music, particularly sacred music, was an important part of their life. Oscar began singing in a choir led by his father, at the age of six or seven. As a youth he played in the Maple Leaf Band at Armena, and later he led the Clover Leaf Band at Czar. He often spoke of how Albert Kringen had taught him how to beat time.



Oscar and Annie Grue.

Annie played the organ and not only did they sing at weddings, anniversaries, church services and funerals, but they brought cheer to many sick and lonely folk with their visits and singing.

He continued working until he was seventy-five years of age. After he sold his house in 1969, he lived at Pastor Selmer Rude's until 1971 at which time he moved to a basement suite at Frank and Helen Olson's.

His move to Bethany Sunset Home came in the fall of 1972. It was there that he met and married Amanda Lee, September 19, 1973. However, he became ill in December that same year and never did regain his health. He died March 4, 1974.

Evert and Ruth Grue

Evert moved from Czar with his parents, Oscar and Annie, in the spring of 1944. He recalls riding in

the box cars along with the furniture, machinery, and animals, and arriving in Camrose at 5 a.m. Getting from Camrose to the Movold farm, which he and his dad had rented, was no easy matter because the wagon got stuck. In 1947, when Adolph and Doris Peterson rented the Movold farm, Evert stayed with them but he farmed Kringen's farm.

The years from 1947 to 1952 were full of action for Evert. He and Edwin purchased the Armena General Store in 1948, but they sold it to Maynard Moe in 1949. Ruth Ramstad came to teach Grades one to six at Armena School and she and Evert were married in April of 1949. These were also the years of school centralization in Alberta. Evert drove the bus for the Thordenskjold area. Roads were high-graded, but they lacked gravel. Staying on those muddy roads was often impossible and several helpful farmers helped pull the bus back on the road. Wages for bus driving were low, and it was impossible to just break even if roads were tough. That first year of centralization meant thirty-four students in Ruth's classroom.

The family, which now included Anne, moved to the Ramstad farm at Donalda in the fall of 1950, but they moved back to Armena in the spring of 1952. During that summer they lived in the small house Ruth's dad had bought from Andy Balaban while their new house was being built in the southeast corner of the hamlet. Evert was employed by a pipeline but he was also farming the south Movold quarter, which he and Mr. Ramstad had purchased. While living in Armena, the family supplied milk to several residents in the hamlet for fifteen cents, and later seventeen cents a quart.

By 1961, there were six children in the family. Evert operated a battery for California Standard for eight years besides farming. When the oil companies began unification of batteries, personnel were cut down, so in 1965 the family bought the Ed Famulak farm and moved there.

Evert bought and sold feeder cattle quite regularly. He and Art Olafson often went to Edmonton together. On one of these trips, Evert and Art were waiting for their cattle to be sold so they walked through a blind alley to the hog barns. A long-horned, wild bull came from a side alley and when he saw Evert and Art, he bellowed loudly and came straight at them. Art jumped up over the plank fence, and when he did, his hat fell off. On seeing the hat the bull stopped, turned and went down another alley. Art looked back, expecting to see the worst, but his hat had saved the day for Evert!

Holidays and travel were always looked forward to with eager anticipation. Perhaps the most challenging holiday was the trip to Expo in Montreal in 1967. All eight family members camped in a home-



Evert Grue family, 1978. Charles, Ron, Sonja, Barry, James, Evert, Anne, Ruth.

made tent trailer, and rode in a 1966 Ford Custom. The trip east was in company with the Don Green family. One day Evert ordered fifteen ice cream cones. The attendant didn't believe she was hearing correctly and asked again. However, when all the youngsters perched on a picnic table, she began dishing up the cones in a hurry.

Throughout the years spent at Armena, family members were involved in Sunday School, Church Junior Choir, Luther League, L.C.W., Brotherhood, Home and School, 4-H, hockey and softball. As Luther Leaguers, James and Sonja travelled to Eastern Canada and Charles rode his ten-speed whenever Pastor Lovrod allowed the group to cycle on that trip to Vancouver. Evert sang tenor in the Armena Men's Quartette and the SPBSQSA for many years.

Anne was an enthusiastic piano student and enjoyed participating in music and youth activities. She graduated from Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute after High School and was involved in youth work at Camp Luther and Burnaby, British Columbia. She completed her B.Ed. after her marriage to Cal Lyseng. They lived on their farm at Armena and both were very active in church and community affairs until they moved to Victoria in May, 1981. Cal worked and studied Chartered Accounting there. They moved to Camrose in January of '82 so Cal could be assistant Administrator at Bethany Hospital. Their children are Jeffrey and Sarah.

Barry worked as a trucker for Camrose Livestock and Byer's Feed Mill. He and Ken Polege formed the Bar-K trucking firm. The name has been retained even though there is a different partner. Barry married Evelyn Jones, an accomplished organist. They bought a teacherage at Armena and lived there until they built a new house on an acreage at Sherwood

Park in 1979. Their daughters are Sharlene and Diana.

Ron worked at cabinet making in Edmonton before he opened Camrose Custom Cabinets in 1975, shortly after he married Joanne Ross, a nurse of Edmonton. Ron had a new shop built in 1980 and usually has around ten employees. Ron has a keen interest in flying, hockey and skidooring. His children are the twins, Gordie and Robbie, and Kristina. Joanne paints and stitches beautifully.

Sonja has enjoyed singing since the age of three. Other interests include horseback riding, skiing and ceramics. She was employed by the Revelstoke Company and the Feed Mill prior to her marriage to Garry Denman of Red Deer. Garry, a widower, had two children, Michelle and Muttay. Sonja worked at the H. B. Co. warehouse until Baby Wayne was born December 23, 1981.

Charles tried cabinet making, trucking and pipelining before he decided to enter pre-law. He quit being a full time student at C.L.C. after completing a year and a half. After driving taxi for awhile, he's now working for Finley Masonry.

James' main interest in High School was mechanics. He restored a '68 Volkswagon convertible in his spare time. He's worked on a pipeline, but is presently working for Bar-K.

Evert and Ruth sold the farm in 1977 and bought a home in Camrose. Ruth has been teaching since 1966, first grade four at Hay Lakes, then grade three at Sifton. Evert works at Ron's cabinet shop.

Edwin and Pearl Grue

It was in the year 1942 that Armena became very important to me. I was still living at home with my family at Czar and farming at the time. It was while visiting near Armena with my Uncle Nels that I found out there was a possibility of my renting Margaret Hendrickson's farm for the coming year. It had always been my ambition to farm in the Armena district, so I made the necessary arrangements and went home to get ready for the move. I had recently become engaged, so was anxious to get a place of my own.

In February I made a trip by train back to Armena when I stayed four or five days at Uncle Nels' and used his horses and hay rack to haul hay from Julius Olson's to my place so I would have feed for my cattle and horses through the spring season. I also bought seed grain and cleaned it with the fanning mill. I well remember how happy I was to be able to rent such a fine place, as all the buildings were in good shape and well painted, including a four room house. Needless to say, I felt I was on top of the world!

Then I returned home to Czar and with the help of

my good parents and brothers we began getting all my belongings together that I had accumulated through the years. With Dad being such a good blacksmith it was easier to get everything in good repair, including an old buggy which was to be our first means of transportation.

When all my machinery and belongings were in good shape, I ordered a train car and loaded it with a plow, harrows, cultivator, wagon and hay rack, buggy — six horses, three cows and calves, some pigs and a half dozen chickens and my dog "Tip" and all my household furnishings.

On March 24 at 2:30 in the afternoon the train arrived to pick up my car full of everything I owned and it was time to say farewell to all those I loved and start out on a new way of life. I climbed into the box car with all my belongings and I was on my way. I had much time to thank God for all the many blessings I had received.

When I arrived in Camrose at 9:30 that night, there was Uncle Nels and Oliver at the station to meet me and to help me unload and take all my belongings to my new home. They took everything, with the exception of the cows and two horses who I called "Dock" and "Bird" and my single buggy. That night, Bethora, my sister from Wetaskiwin came and in the morning she drove one horse on the buggy with the cows following and I brought up the rear on horseback. Bethora stayed a few days with me until I got settled.

The fall before, the snow came very early so there was a lot of crops still in the fields to harvest in the spring, including some fields that I was going to seed that year. So I went threshing with the Thronsons that spring for about a week and from then on, that summer became a very busy time for me. Plowing a lot of my land before seeding was pretty slow work with a six horse hitch and a two bottom plow. But what a treat to plow where there were no rocks!

My only source of income was my three cows that had to be milked before and after farming each day. Of course I had to wash the cream separator too, and do my own cooking and washing dishes. Once a week I would hitch up either Dock or Bird to the single buggy and deliver my cream to Armena in time to catch the train for Camrose. Then I would buy my week's groceries and supplies and get my mail, always hoping for letters from home and especially from that girl I had left behind.

Through the summer I worked very hard getting ready for my new bride-to-be. I had such good neighbors that sure made my life much easier. I still can taste the strawberry shortcake that Barbara Lyseng brought to the house when she delivered my mail one day. I also enjoyed many good meals with Martin and Dagne Lyseng. I remember one night I had worked

hard all day and I decided I would go over and pick up my mail before I made my supper. It was late and Martin and Dagne had had their supper much earlier but Dagne said if I would be satisfied with cream and bread she would make some for me. I was so tired and that cream and bread was fit for a King to me that night. And to think I could just go home and crawl into bed instead of starting to cook a meal for myself! I'll never forget it.

Then on weekends Bertina's would often take me with them to various functions.

Then in the fall came the hardest work. I had no harvesting equipment so Uncle Nels did the cutting of his crop as well as mine and I did all the stooking. I stooked over two hundred acres of very heavy crop that year and finished just in time to go threshing for three weeks.

Then I went back to Czar and Pearl and we were married on October 24, 1943 in Czar Lutheran Church. A couple days later we packed up all of Pearl's earthly possessions, plus all of our wedding and shower gifts into our friend's truck and they took us to Armena to our new home. It was so much fun fixing up the house with our very own things. A few days later there was a big shower for us at Nels Grue's and the big dining room table was piled high with just everything that we needed. I think everyone in the whole community must have been there.

We didn't have any new furniture, in fact we had an old, old cookstove and an old bed that sunk down in the middle (just right for newly-weds). Pearl made a dresser and two bedside tables out of orange crates and sewed ruffled skirts for them and also made bedroom curtains to match. At a sale I had bought a nice second hand dining room suite and with money we got for gifts we bought a kitchen table and four chairs which we painted. Our chesterfield was an old Winnipeg couch with a blanket over it. We thought we were really well off as we had gotten not one, but two coleman lamps for gifts. Such luxury for those days and we had also been given a fine Arcadia battery packed radio, a real luxury if there ever was one!

Then one day Uncle Nels came over and told us we could take his car and go for a little honeymoon so we went to Wetaskiwin where we had our wedding photo taken. Pearl's uncle was the photographer in Wetaskiwin at that time and he gave us one dozen, five by seven pictures and one eight by ten for ourselves for a wedding present. Then we went out for a nice supper and got a room at the hotel there where we spent the night. The next day we shopped awhile and went back home. Quite a honeymoon eh?

Uncle Nels and Aunt Sophia were always helping us in so many ways.

But here it was, the end of October, and there was still lots of threshing to do, although ours was all done before our wedding. So I went threshing and then dug our potatoes and did all the fall work as well, as it was nice until Christmas that year.

We had no electricity so we had no refrigerator or no running water so had to carry all our water both in and out. But we had an ice house and a good cold well where we kept our meat and milk and cream just fine. We belonged to a meat ring so got our fresh meat regularly.

We milked cows and sold enough cream to live on. The first two years we didn't have a car but Bertina Skaret often offered us the use of her old model A to go to Camrose occasionally when we needed to. We usually walked across the fields to Fridhem church on Sundays or went with the horse and buggy or cutter.

Before spring came we had saved enough money raising hogs and selling grain to buy a brand new John Deer tractor and pay cash for it. So now things were really looking up and farming was a lot easier and quicker that year.

On October 23 the following year a little girl was born to us in Camrose hospital. We were so dumb then, thinking that because she was due on October 24th I could go to Nels' the night before to get Nels to take Pearl to the hospital but instead we were rudely awakened in the middle of the night a couple days earlier and I had to run across the fields in the middle of the night to get Nels, but all went well and our beautiful little girl was a wee bundle of joy. We named her Karen Ann and when we brought her home from the hospital, Aunt Sophia had been there and cleaned the house throughout so it was so nice to come home to.

We drove horse and buggy and cutter for the first two years until we were able to buy a good second hand model B Ford car. Farming with the tractor proved to be a lot faster and easier and we made a good living, even if we didn't get rich. We didn't need or wish for much more back then. We had lots to eat and that was all that mattered. And we were happy.

We had fun too and we did a lot of visiting and entertaining in those days amongst our neighbors, something no one seems to do too much of anymore. We remember spending one afternoon on a Sunday at our place with another young couple carrying water, pail after pail and drowning out and snaring gophers. Never had so much fun and got rid of as awful lot of gophers too! They were sure plentiful that year.

Two years after Karen Ann was born we were blessed with our second child, this time, a handsome



Ed Grue family, 1958. Pearl, Del, Edwin, Dale, Brian, and Karen.

little boy who we named Dale Rodney. Now we were a real family and we enjoyed our children so much.

We rented Margaret's land for five years. Then we and Ed's brother Evert bought Armena Store from Vernon Lyseng and Raymond Skaret. So we had an auction sale and moved into the back of the store where there were quite cozy living quarters. We ran the store business and the Post Office and the bulk gas business for about a year and a half. Then we sold it to Maynard Moe and we moved back out to Margaret's farm again and lived in the house while our new house was being built in Armena.

We moved into the new house in February. I drove the Armena School bus and also had a small trucking business hauling grain, cattle and coal. In the fall I got a job with Petcal Oil Co. and a little later started working with B.A. Oil Co. (Later called Gulf Oil).

When we moved into Armena we also transferred our church membership to Scandia where we both became active with the Sunday School and every area of the church. I sang in the choir and also with a male quartette and was also cubmaster for a time.

We enjoyed living in Armena. Every one who lived in the little village were good friends and we celebrated each other's birthdays with a party and cake and had very good times together.

Pastor Jo Rostad came to Scandia in 1951. He was newly married and this was his very first parish. Also his first baptism was our third child, Dell Donald who was born to us September 13, 1951. Then two years later on November 3, 1953 our fourth and last child was born. We named him Brian Edwin.

These three boys and one girl became our complete family and we enjoyed them and watched them grow and mature through the years, eventually marrying and having families of their own. All except Dale who is still single.

In 1965 I was transferred to Stettler with Gulf Oil. By this time Karen had graduated from High School and had worked for A.G.T. in Wetaskiwin for a couple years. Neil Hansen, a handsome young fellow from the Hay Lakes area had been escorting Karen around for a couple years and they had been recently engaged, so when this transfer for us came up and we were to move in July, the wedding date was set for July 3, 1965. A lovely wedding it was, and they began their married life in Camrose, Karen had been transferred to Camrose from Wetaskiwin with A.G.T. and Neil, by this time was working with his father in "Hanson Construction".

Next day after the wedding we started packing for our move to Stettler. Dale, by this time had finished his highschool and also first year university at Camrose Lutheran College and had worked for the summer with Gulf Oil, so it was just Pearl and I and Dell and Brian and Shane who moved to Stettler on July 15, 1965.

Shane, (Pearl's nephew) had come to live with us a year before when he was six years old. He lived with us two more years in Stettler and then he went back to live with his father who had remarried.

We lived in Stettler fifteen and a half years where Dell and Brian finished their schooling and went out on their own and eventually married very fine girls. So the two of us were on our own once again.

In December of 1980 I took early retirement from Gulf Oil after twenty-eight and one half years. I had a promise of a job at Bethany Sunset Home in Camrose so we sold our home and bought a new home in Camrose and started to make preparations to move. We were in our new home just in time to have our family home for Christmas.

After New Years' we took our trailer and went to Arizona and California for two months vacation before beginning my new job at Bethany in March.

In closing we will tell you a little about each of our children.

Our daughter Karen and her husband Neil Hansen still live in Camrose where Neil and two of his brothers now own A. Hanson and Sons Construction Ltd. They have two daughters, Lori born in 1967 and Catherine born in 1969.

Dale lives in North Vancouver and works for Hudson Bay Stores. He works mainly with computers and has travelled through B.C., setting up computers in most of the Bay Stores. He spends his spare

time sailing and does a fair amount of racing and does quite well.

Dell and his wife Jo live in Edmonton where Dell has worked for ten years at Heally Ford as a partsman but now he runs his own hardware business in the city. They have two children, Jennifer born in 1977 and Michael born in 1980.

Brian and his wife Pat live at Stewart, B.C. about a mile from the Alaska border. They have one son "Waylon" born in 1979. Brian does carpenter work mostly but has also done some logging.

Our whole family really enjoyed the years we lived in the Armena district and will always remember the many friends we made there.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Grue

Theodore Grue arrived in Alberta in May, 1894 at the age of seven months with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thore S. Grue, and their family from Wendell, Minnesota. Ted grew up and lived in the Armena District and by 1919 bought the half section and lived on the N.E. 18-48-20 W4.

In the spring of 1920 Ted was united in marriage to Nora Hansen, daughter of Hans and Gunhilde (Ostrem) Hansen. Nora, together with her family, had come from Newman Grove, Nebraska in 1912. Mr. Hansen purchased a farm on N.E. 20-47-20 W4.

Ted and Nora lived in the Armena District for several years. They were blessed with three children; Geneva, Harlan, and Louise.

In 1926 they sold out and moved to Camrose, where Ted, being employed by the Easy Wash Machine Co., had the franchise from Camrose to the Saskatchewan border. In 1930 they moved to Edmonton. Here another daughter, Eileen, was born. In Edmonton, Ted continued as a salesman until 1948 when he became employed with Alldritt Con-



Theodore Grue family. Louise, Harlan, Geneva, Theodore, Eileen, Nora.

struction Co. He was a Finishing Foreman for 16 years, until retirement in 1966. They continue to make their home in Edmonton.

The Nels Grue Family by Nels Grue

I was born on January 12, 1897 to parents Thore and Beret Grue on Father's homestead, which was three quarters of a mile north of the present hamlet of Armena, on the N.W. ¼-12-48-21 W4.

Father and Mother immigrated to America as teenagers from Roros, Norway in 1869 and 1870 respectively.

In 1876, Father purchased a three hundred and twenty acre farm near Wendell, Minnesota.

In 1881, Father was united in marriage to Beret Mikkelson of Lake Park, Minnesota. Their marriage took place February 16, 1881 in the Thordenskjold Lutheran Church at Dalton, Minnesota.

To this marriage were born seven children: Simon, Lars, Oscar, Bella, Theodore, Nels and Josephine. The two last mentioned were born in what was then the Northwest Territories. (now Alberta)

Father and Mother continued living on the farm until 1893, when they sold the farm.

In 1894 they moved to what is now Armena, Alberta, with their family and Father's elderly parents, Simon and Olava Grue. They settled on the land previously mentioned, with my grandparents on the northeast quarter of the same section. They became the first settlers in the Armena-Camrose North district.

The family lived there on the homestead for some years, but later sold the land and bought four hundred and eighty acres two miles farther east.

In 1918, when the war had ended and I had received my discharge from the army, I decided to purchase the home place from Father, the N.E. ¼-8-48-20-W4. He had already disposed of the rest of the farm and was getting ready for retirement.



Nels Grue family. Grace, Jean, Verneal, Nels, Lillian, Sophia.

On November 27, 1919, I was united in marriage to Sophia Rasmusson at the Rasmusson home, then located three miles east of our farm.

To our marriage were born four girls.

Jean — (Mrs. Don Miller), living at the lakefront at Shuswap Lake, near Salmon Arm, B.C. Their family: Howard and Laurel.

Grace — (Mrs. Harold Snipstad) living at Delta, B.C. Their family: Kris, Brent, and Brian.

Verneal — (Mrs. Don Kallevig), living at Delta, B.C. Their family: Sonja and David.

Lillian — (Mrs. Rod Larson) living at Stanley, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Their family: Cole, Mathew and Robyn.

Sophia's parents: Rasmus Rasmusson and Kjersti Boe, were united in marriage in the spring of 1890 at Newman Grove, Nebraska. To their marriage were born eight children: Clara, Cecilia, Mabel, Cora, Sophia, Robert, Harold, and George.

In 1911, the Rasmusson family immigrated to Alberta, and settled on the N.E. ¼-17-48-20 and later purchased the N.W. ¼-16-48-20-W4 where they farmed for several years.

We were kept busy on the farm, clearing and breaking land the hard way. Horses were our source of power during the first years. They were later replaced by the tractor, truck, and automobile.

Besides farming our own land we also rented several farms through the years and kept a certain amount of livestock as well.

We have travelled to the United States several times to visit relatives, and to see my parents' old home in Minnesota, and Sophia's former home in Nebraska. We also visited schools which we had previously attended. I suppose the highlight of our travels so far would be our trip to three of the Hawaiian Islands in March, 1977.

Our place of worship was the Scandia Lutheran Church located three-fourths of a mile north of Armena. It served the congregation from 1905 until 1955 when it was destroyed by fire, a new church was built the same year at Armena.

We served in the different organizations of the church. My special interest was in the field of music, in singing and directing the choir for more than thirty years.

Here our children were baptized and confirmed, and here they went to Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. They also attended Bible Camp in the summer.

Our children began their schooling in the one-room country school, and later were taken by bus to Armena, a centralized school.

They took high-school at Camrose Lutheran College. They also took lessons in piano and voice.

Three of them attended Bible School at C.L.B.I. in Camrose, and Lutheran Brethern school at Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Mention should be made of the Maple Leaf Band for fear of it passing into oblivion. The band was organized in 1908 with Cornelius Grue as its director. It was in existence for about fifteen years, playing at many special occasions in the community. The members were:

Cornet — Oscar Grue, Albert Kringen, Otto Anderson, and Victor Lindgren.

Alto — Cliff Wilson and Anton Thronson.

Trombone — John Thronson, Lars Grue, and Oscar Lingren.

Baritone — Thorvald Thronson.

Bass — Simon Grue.

Clarinet — Ralf Wilson and Paul Berg.

Piccolo — Nels Grue.

Snare Drum — Iner Broen.

Bass Drum — Carl Anderson.

I later played different band instruments, and finally settled for the trumpet, which stood me in good stead for later playing in the school bands.

Looking back over the many years spent on the farm, from the horse and buggy days to today's jet age, we have witnessed many changes!

We have celebrated the different anniversaries, including our sixtieth wedding anniversary which was celebrated on August 12, 1979 at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Camrose.

In the fall of 1973, we sold our farm and moved to Camrose where we live at present at 4712-61 Street.

The Norman Grue Family

Leila Jornlin was born October 31, 1921 and married Norman Grue (son of Lars Grue) on June 23, 1946. They farmed at Hay Lakes until 1968 then moved to Sherwood Park, Alberta. Norman is employed at Ostrem Chemicals, Edmonton. They have five children, three sons and two daughters.

Gerald Malcolm, born June 21, 1947, was married to Dena Eleanor Frostad. They farmed at Hay Lakes for several years and are now living east of Armena on an acreage. Gerald is trucking for Barry Grue at the present. They have three sons: Stephen John, born March 30, 1970, Michael Gerald born August 25, 1971, and Paul Harold born July 7, 1974.

Barbara Faye was born August 15, 1950. She graduated as a nurse from Royal Alexandra Hospital and later married James Grahn. They lived in Surrey, B.C. for a few years and are now living in Sherwood Park. James is presently in real estate. They have two children: Timothy James born September 17, 1976, and Kristen Marie born November 10, 1980.

Audrey Heather was born March 7, 1954. She

became an employee of the Royal Bank. She later married Ronald Matt Scott and they live on an acreage near Sherwood Park. Ron is in partnership with his father and brother in Scott Steel Ltd. of Edmonton. They have one son, Christopher Adam, born on June 18, 1980.

Daniel Norman was born on February 10, 1959. He is a draftsman and works for Scott Steel Ltd.

Douglas Wade was born on June 26, 1963. He has just graduated from High School.

Our Twenty-five plus Years in Armena: Oliver and Mary Grue

Oliver and I were married on July 24, 1940 but we didn't move to Armena until the fall of that year. We had bought the farm the spring of 1940, but since Oliver was working as a caterpillar operator for Cornhill Municipality, his brother Norman did the farm work.



Mary and Oliver Grue.

As I look back on those first years in Armena I feel we were almost like the early pioneers. We lived in one of the oldest houses in the district, having been built by Nels Dahl in 1901. The old house had not been built to last but to just tide a family over until something better could be built. Yet it served the needs of many families over the years. The Dahl's lived in the house until 1909, when they sold the place to Lars Skotvold and Karl Andreason real estate agents in Camrose. The place stood empty until 1919 when it was sold to George Hendrickson who in turn sold it to Theodore Grue. Theodore's lived on the place until 1927 when they sold it back to George Hendrickson. During the winter of 1928 Martin Dahl's lived on the place, and during the summer of 1928 George Hendrickson's lived there. In the fall of 1928 George Hendrickson had bought a farm in Bar- do. At this time Helmer Hendricksons moved into

the house and lived there until 1938. The house stood empty until we moved there in the fall of 1940. We lived in the house until the fall of 1953 when we had finished our new house. The old house still stands today, a reminder of a time gone but not forgotten.

When we moved to Armena, the main part of the house (16' by 16') was of logs. The inside logs had been covered with a soft building paper and then calcimined. The rafters in the ceiling had been treated the same way. An addition had been built to the north end by Nels Dahl, which we used as a living room. There was a cellar under the main part but with the years it had caved in so it was almost as big as the room above. There were some stones forming a foundation that held the bottom logs, but some of these logs were rotten. In the fall Oliver would haul manure or in later years straw and black soil to bank up all around the house, yet there was still one place in the north-east corner of the kitchen where snow was able to sift in if there was a wind from the east or south-east. We had no storm windows, and so in winter we always had beautiful frost pictures on our windows.

Every morning during the winter I would carry out ashes from both the kitchen stove and a Quebec heater that we had in the living room. In the evening I would fill up the lamps with coal oil and wash the glass chimneys so we would have the best light possible. Every evening I would also carry in many pails of coal, and would fill up our deep woodbox with split wood. Oliver would stay up late at night to keep the fires going. I would get up early to fire up so it wouldn't be so cold, but still it was always a cold house. On some cold winter nights there was thin ice formed on the water in the reservoir of the stove. Even though we lived in such a cold house the boys never seemed to have colds.

In the summer there were always mice in the house. There was no way that we could keep them out because the foundation was open in numerous places. No food could be left in the open and so it had to be kept in tight containers. But worse than that, there were snakes! Once, when I sat sewing, I looked down and close to my feet along the baseboard a snake came slithering. I screamed and thank goodness it disappeared! Another morning when I was starting the fire I opened the woodbox, dug around for some chips and almost put my hand on a snake. But my screaming scared him away too.

The first years we farmed with horses so Oliver kept the old barns in good shape. The cow barn was built of logs with a hay roof. Each year Oliver would put another load of hay on top. Fastened onto the cow barn was a clap-board barn with the boards running up and down, and a shingled roof! This barn was so open that Oliver put stagings around the outside and

filled them with straw so that it was cozy and warm for the horses.

We had a really good chicken house, even if it was low and built right into the hill. It was the newest building on the place. We got chicks in the spring, so in the winter we had eggs to sell for about 15¢ a dozen. And what a boon the straw piles were in those days — for bedding in the barns and chicken houses, and for the pigs who would burrow way in and be cozy and warm in the coldest weather.

We had really poor roads in 1940. The road east of our place was really only a trail, with 2 ruts and grass growing up between. We really felt we were in civilized country when the road was “built up” and gravelled, and we were able to drive the car all year round. In the early days we had to keep the car battery inside in winter. When Oliver was going to start the car he had to put the battery in, hot water had to be put in the radiator, and then, hopefully the car would start. And there were no heaters either to keep us warm!

During our years of farming we saw many changes. Horses gave way to tractors, threshing to combining, haying to silage. The changes were all for the good but the end of threshing and the start of combining was a bit of a let-down. Even though we were busy during threshing, what excitement there always was!

The discovery of oil in the Armena district caused great excitement. There were all the lights of the oil rigs, and the traffic that always came and went. There seemed always to be oil workers coming to the house to use the phone, or to buy eggs. One morning an oil worker came to the house and wanted to buy a dozen eggs. I went and got his eggs and brought them to him — but he said he wanted them hard-boiled, so into a pot of boiling water they went. Oil workers with their families moved into the district, boosting the school population so that in some rooms there were up to 40 students. We had surface rights, and how thankful we were for the money. It was at this time that we built a new house, and moved away from that somewhat nostalgic old house.

Electricity too was wonderful to get. Now we could get fridges, electric irons, and electric lights. The “beef ring” that had provided fresh meat for us in the summer was discontinued now that we had refrigeration. There were no more lamps that had to be filled with coal oil, and no more lamp chimneys to be cleaned. And then television came and brought the world to us!

It seems that there was always work to do on the farm: all the field work that had to be done, the constant repairing of the machinery, the taking care of the livestock, the cooking and housework, and of



Constant Repairing of the Machinery. Glen and Mark.

course, the raising of four boys. But we also had time for fun. The radio programs were always a source of entertainment: Fibber Magee and Molly, the Lux Radio Theatre, Amos and Andy, Burns and Allen, and of course, Ma Perkins. What a deadly silence there seemed to be when the radio battery went dead, especially in winter. On one occasion, on a bitterly cold winter day, Oliver hitched up the team of horses and drove to Camrose with a jar of pennies that we had been saving. We decided to use these pennies to buy a new radio battery. When he got to the bank to cash in the pennies, the bank wouldn't take them unless they were rolled, so Oliver had to come back home without the radio battery. Our entertainment for a few nights was rolling the pennies! In addition to listening to the radio, reading books entertained us through the long, cold winter evenings. Books by James Oliver Curwood, Harold Bell Wright, Ralph Conner, and the Zane Grey books are ones that come to mind.

One summer Oliver and I, Dick and Ruth, Alice and Vernon, and Ed and Pearl decided to have a tennis tournament. We had made a tennis court just east of our wind mill, using the old hay mower to cut the grass and slacked lime to make the lines. We played once a week, and at the end of the summer we had the grand playoffs — but we can't remember who the champions were. That day we also had a big picnic with home made ice-cream, but I can't remember from where we would have gotten the ice.

We also spent many hours visiting with friends and relatives. It seemed that for many years, Dick

Skarets and we would get together and make home-made ice-cream during the winter months. How good and rich that ice-cream was! We also spent many hours with Dick and Ruth playing games, such as Sorry and Monopoly. Monopoly was the game that we played the most. One Christmas Oliver and I decided to buy a Monopoly game for someone. Since we couldn't afford to buy one for ourselves, we decided to make our own Monopoly game by using the bought one as a guide. We painted the squares and the markings on a board, built little houses and hotels, made paper money, and probably used sugar cubes as dice. How many hours we used this home-made game!

There were of course the school and church activities. How can one not remember the many hours of entertainment that we and others enjoyed as we listened to the school and church Christmas concerts. There was the laughter, the joy, the excitement, and the pride of the boys when they were younger as they performed their part in the program, and their somewhat more reserve and discomfort as they became older. How we enjoyed those concerts over the years, but at times we were somewhat embarrassed when one of the boys forgot his piece or made some other mistake. And I remember how the boys would either be mad or happy depending on whether or not they were to be one of the shepherds in the concert. And of course, there were the many school and church picnics during the summer, with all the fun and excitement. There were also the community skating parties every Friday night at the rink. What fun the boys had, and what fond and happy memories these all bring back today.

In 1962 I went back teaching in Armena. I stayed there for seven years, teaching Grades three and four. Those years in Armena School were good years, and how interesting the children were! In 1965 Glen bought the farm and Oliver began working for Schnell and Barrie in Camrose in 1966. That fall, Rueben, David, Oliver and I moved into Camrose. Oliver worked for Schnell and Barrie for thirteen years. After I left Armena School I taught in Sifton for nine years. Oliver and I are now retired, and are enjoying staying at home and doing some travelling.

We have four boys: Glen born on January 26, 1943; Mark born September 11, 1944; David born April 16, 1946; and Rueben born July 20, 1950. Glen has sold the farm and is now living in Leduc with his wife Cam and their three children. He's a salesman for Theisson's Dairy Equipment. Mark lives in Calgary with his wife Anne, and works for the Alberta Government in the Department of the Environment. David and his wife Doreen and two children live in Cochrane. They operate a grain elevator painting



Four Grue sons, 1951. Glen, Mark, David and Rueben.

business, and as well, have started a printing shop. Rueben has taught school for seven years, and is presently at the University of Alberta doing graduate studies in school counseling.

We are very thankful that our boys grew up in the Armena district and attended school and church there. We made many good friends in Armena, and it's always so good to "come back."

Johan and Josephina Grundberg

Johan (John) Oscar Grundberg was born April 1, 1860 in Lyksele, Sweden. His wife Josephina Marie Anderson was born February 8, 1863 in Vesterbotten, Sweden. They were married in 1886 at Degerfort Parish, Vesterbotten, Sweden. They left Sweden in 1892 and settled in Kulm, North Dakota, for awhile, and then moved to Lundemo, Alta. in 1900. John homesteaded a quarter section west of Lundemo, now the Atema farm, and lived on this homestead until his death in 1926. His wife died three years later in 1929. John also purchased two quarter sections in Bawlf area which was farmed by his sons. He helped to build the Swan Hill School which his children attended. John and Josephina had eight children: Emil was born in Vesterbotten, Sweden in 1890. He never married. Emil died in 1923 and was buried in the Fridhem cemetery. Arthur was born in Vesterbotten, Sweden in 1892. He also remained single. Arthur died in 1961 and was buried in Fridhem cemetery. Ellen was born in Kulm, North Dakota in 1894.



The Johan Grundberg homestead house. This house is mostly intact yet with a spiral stairway still in place.

She married Carl Hallberg who was a pastor in a local church. They later moved to Pittsburgh, Penn. Seven children were born to them of whom only two are still living. Ellen died in 1924. Nanny was born at Kulm, North Dakota and died at the very young age of three.



Mrs. Johan Grundberg and daughter Nanny (Mrs. Bill Grahm).

Nanny Letutsia was born in 1896 in Kulm, North Dakota. She married Wilhelm Grahm and they had six children. She died in Victoria, B.C. in 1956. Olga was born in 1898 in Kulm, N.D. In 1916 she married Elmer Larson at Camrose and then moved to Kulm, N.D. They had four children. Olga died in Yakima, Wash. in 1974. Sanna was born in 1901 here in the Lundemo district. She married Elmer Tingstad in 1923. They homesteaded for a number of years at Valleyview, Alta., then moved to B.C. in 1943. They had ten children. Sanna is presently living in Kelowna, B.C. Hurum was born here in 1904. He married Bertha Sorrel in 1929 and moved to North



Sanna and Hurum Grundberg, his dad Johan, and mother Josephina.

Miquelon Lake area. They had ten children, two of whom lived in this area. Oscar married Carmen Lindberg and lived in the Bailey Sub Division. They have five children. Their daughter, Debbie, married Fred Atema. Oscar died in 1981. Terry, the youngest son of Hurum and Bertha Grundberg, married Janice (Atema) Hansen. They have two children from this marriage. For a time they lived on the Atema farm, but now live in Valleyview, Alberta. Hurum died in 1965, his wife Bertha died in 1973. They are buried in the Tofield cemetery.

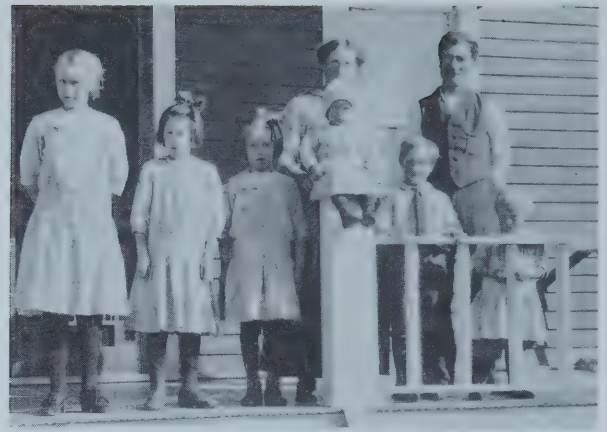
Mr. and Mrs. Sten Gunderson by Sten Gunderson

Sten Gunderson was born on May 28, 1881 in Dagali, Numedahl, Norway. At the age of eighteen years, he sailed for North America, landing at Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1899. He travelled from Halifax via train to Canton, South Dakota to work for a cousin on a farm. In 1901, he took the immigration train to Calgary in the Northwest Territories of Canada. He was in the company of his future father-in-law, Severin Olsen. They received a cheap fare as they fed and watered cattle on the train that was bringing both people and animals to Western Canada. He landed in Wetaskiwin, N.W.T. and filed on his homestead in Range 47-19 and then proceeded to walk to his claim, thirty-five miles east of Wetaskiwin.

Sten built a sod house on his quarter section of land and improved the land so that he could qualify to own it. He returned to the United States in 1902 and married Martha Elene Olsen and returned with his bride to the sod house six miles north east of the present city of Camrose, in 1903.



Mr. and Mrs. Severin Olson, daughter Martha, and son Haakan.



Sten Gunderson family, 1930. Agnes, Anna, Stella, Mother, Gunner, Clifford, Papa, Mabel.

This sod house was of no avail in rainy season, so Sten built a log house and this was their home until he could build the extra two-storey home in 1912 and attach it to the log house. This nine room home was essential as there was a large family and still growing, by 1912. The children born to Sten and Martha were Agnes, 1905, Anna 1907-1917, Stella 1909, Clifford 1911-1963, Mabel 1913, Gunnar 1915, Sten 1917, and Morris 1919.

Mrs. Sten Gunderson died in 1919, three days after giving birth to her last child, as she succumbed to the influenza that was raging across Western Canada.

As stated in the story of the Severin Olsens, the grandparents took Sten into their home when the mother died, and raised him. The baby, Morris, was taken to the Anton Holm home in the Poznan School district, near the Lake de May elevator. After spending a year with Mr. and Mrs. Holm, Morris was taken to Grandma Olsen's house where he was reared, along with Sten, until Mrs. Olsen died of cancer in 1924. The boys were then seven and five years of age and were returned to their father and brother and sisters.

Sten Gunderson had progressed successfully under the trying conditions and at the time of his death had procured another quarter of land and was debt free. Sten died in 1926, leaving a family of seven children whose ages ranged from twenty years to seven years. On his death bed, Mr. Gunderson was forced to sign a will which had been prepared by his brother and the lawyer in Camrose, that stated that no debtors could claim anything from the estate until the youngest child, Morris, had reached the age of twenty-one. This "WILL" kept the children together and permitted them to grow up knowing each other and, even though the struggle was difficult as the depression years came in upon all of Canada, they struggled

to keep food on the table. When the boys grew up, they refused to be farmers. The land was leased on a crop sharing basis and any indebtedness that had accrued through the years was cleared away and the land was sold in 1947, permitting each child to receive a financial reward.

The parents and sister Anna, along with grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Severin Olsen, are buried in the Lake de May Cemetery which is located four miles east of the Gunderson farm or should we say, in the Swea School District. This cemetery is near the site of the Lutheran church which was to be built under the missionaries, Reverend and Mrs. Froyen, who lived with Mr. and Mrs. Severin Olsen for quite some time during the early years on the homestead.

Grandpa Olsen, before his death in 1939, told his grandson Sten, about a trip to Wetaskiwin to procure lumber. On the return trip home, as the wagons were proceeding down the Gwynne hills, the lumber on Sten's wagon shifted and the load over-turned and Sten's leg was pinned beneath the lumber. He wasn't able to jump clear of it. He would never have freed himself if he had been travelling alone, so Grandpa Olsen stated. It was for this reason that these trips were always carried out in a partnership manner.

I recall that my home was a stopping place for men and teams returning from the shopping trips to Wetaskiwin. The people would be returning to their farms in the Kingman, Round Hill areas and they needed to find a resting place for the night. I know that many of these people were Norwegian immigrants and they enjoyed the opportunity to stay with kin folk from Norway.

Mildred Hallgren

My parents, Anders Gustav Tornquist and Augusta Matilda Olsson, were married in their native Sweden in 1898, and immigrated to Canada in 1904.



Taken at my mother's (Mrs. Matilda Tornquist) 60th birthday on February 24, 1937, at our home. Back Row: Mildred Hallgren, Pauline Kringen, Petra Kringen. Front: Hazel Craney, Mrs. Craney, Ida Thronndson, Mrs. Tornquist, Eldie Broen, Clara Kringen, Lorne and Ordean Broen.

They came to Cranbrook, unable to speak a word of English. Father worked for awhile in the logging camps in that area and mother told about going into the store at Cranbrook to buy food with the Swedish-English dictionary in her hand and pointing out the words to the clerk. In 1905 they came to the Camrose district (as it later became known) and filed on a



Chore boy, Mildred Hallgren.

homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, ten miles north, two miles west and one and a half miles north of Camrose, being S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32, Township 48, Range 20, west of the 4th meridian. This land was heavily timbered with white and black poplar and willows. Arduous clearing was done by hand and a breaking plow, with horses. She said that they were one of the few settlers who did not use oxen. A one room cabin and barns were built from logs.

I was born on December 29, 1910, at the Langbell's home for mothers-to-be at Camrose, and was christened at home by Rev. Lindgren, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Fridhem congregation. My godparents were my cousins Albanus and Anna Johnson.

Thronson School was built on a corner of the Jorlin land, two miles south of my home, and I attended school there until into the third year. In those early years there were school districts wherein one's land belonged, run by local residents, five or six in number and known as the School Board, and special permission had to be obtained from the "Boards" to enter a child into their school. Our land



Mildred Hallgren and daughter Neva. This snap was taken of myself and Neva in early spring of 1946, there on my home farm, in front of the pine trees planted by my mother in 1909, from seeds sent to her by her brother in Sweden. Some of the trees are still growing there on what is now Nordin property.

was in the Brandland School district but the school was over three miles north-west of my home. We were in a large Swedish-Norwegian settlement, and occasion to learn English was non-existent other than by the occasional trips to stores to buy goods. Consequently I knew no English until I started school in September of 1917.

Thronson School pupils were largely children of Norwegian settlers who came to Canada via the United States, and therefore English was more prevalent in those families. Memories of those days over sixty years ago are now difficult to pin-point, but I do remember the winter rides in bitter cold and snow to and from school with mother or father driving the team hitched to the front bob-sled with a box on it to sit in. I remember our Valentine parties, when all the children were industriously making valentines. To this day, a "boughten" valentine bugs me! And the intense watching, how many missives the "Valentine Box" yielded to each of us.

My school mates, as I remember, were Eldie Edval, whose home was with the Kringen sisters, Inez, Helen, Lennard and Vernon Thronson, Helmer and Olga Skaret, Sebastian and Helen Zeller, Lester, Velma and Raymond Jornlin and Harry Erickson. There were others, but my memory fails. I seem to recall a teacher, Miss Grant, or Miss Rand? She was competent scholastically, but her discipline left something to be desired. When I left Thronson School in the spring of 1920 and entered Brandland School, I was immediately up-graded from Grade Three to Grade Four, and in September 1920, into Grade Five.

In 1922 my father died of dropsy brought on by a leg fracture in a run-away in 1921. There was little or

no help in those days for widows and any help from municipal funds, was to be shunned.

My Grade Nine education was cut short by the Brandland School Board edict that the teacher had enough work teaching eight grades although at that time the Department of Education re-imbursed a public school teacher teaching a "High School" grade, the magnificent sum of fifty cents per school day. So my treasured school books were put away and I did manual labor on the farm for the next twenty years.

I was also active in the Luther League in the Fridhem Church. In 1929 I had the first major rheumatic fever attack, and survived two more, until in 1948 on my doctor's advice I moved to the east coast of Vancouver Island, my mother having died in 1944. I have never regretted the move. I sold my farm there in 1952 to Reynold Nordin.

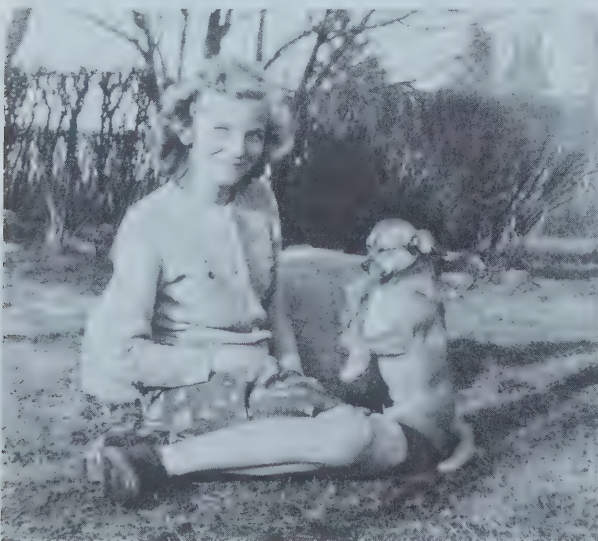
In 1931 I married Albin Hallgren, he worked on the C.N.R. section until retirement. We had a daughter, Neva. She attended Thronson School and passed the grade eight exam in 1947 with Mrs. Grace French as teacher. She attended a business course after we came to Fanny Bay, and has now been employed for years as a Lock and Key Shop assistant in Campbell River.

Alex and Janet Hamilton A Pioneer Family by May Stavne

Alex Laughlin Hamilton, born May 2, 1871 in Bromley County, Ontario, and Janet Elizabeth Marie Sweeney, born November 17, 1875 in Renfrew County, Ontario, were married on April 13, 1898. In 1913, after deciding to move out west, they settled in the East Bittern Lake district. Their family consisted of two boys, Alex, age fourteen years, and Guy, age thirteen years, and three girls, Beatrice, May, and Margaret; Edith, the youngest child, was born in 1917.

On our arrival that spring, we discovered that most of our neighbors were bachelors. Later on, families with children our ages came visiting so return visits were made with us crossing a number of creeks and opening and closing at least a half-dozen gates. Once, while fording an especially wide creek, we became stuck in the mud. When the pole in the buggy broke, the team ran away, each horse going his own way. One of them went home, but not old Dan! He was found a week later, miles from home, with part of the harness still hanging around his neck. Old Dan was a good work horse even if he was an outlaw. We would sometimes take him to a stampede so we could see the riders fall off!

Those early years on the new farmstead were



You sit so nice, Bingo!



Hamilton sisters, August, 1981. May, Beatrice, Margaret, Edith.

filled with light-hearted carefree days. We younger members roamed the open land near our home, as free and wild as Indians. We knew where the first crocus pushed up their furry heads, and where the shooting stars would circle the sloughs with their brilliant colors. Then, disaster struck! A bachelor neighbor rode into our yard and announced we had to start school. That bearer of bad news sure wasn't popular with us, the two oldest girls, for awhile. Later, he even married our beloved school teacher. Brothers Alex and Guy took several years of schooling at East Bittern Lake School; we four girls started our education at the Busk School, often walking there and back.

One summer, our brothers found a family of young coyote pups. Oh the fun we had and later, the money we were going to have when they were big enough to sell! After half a dozen chickens and two or three turkeys disappeared, a pen had to be built. When the boys were busy, we, the bigger girls, were asked to supply feed for the pets. We were given the use of two .22-caliber rifles and numerous bits of advice like, "Don't aim at anything too far distant or you'll ruin the gun". Gophers and rabbits were very plentiful but making money that way wasn't a success.

Bringing home the milk cows was a job we girls didn't mind doing. They were on a leased half-section, often miles from home, and we took turns riding after them. One evening they were especially hard to find and collect for the homeward journey. Polly, my saddle horse, being warm and thirsty, was

allowed to go out in a slough for a drink. After the drink, she just laid down in the water; I scrambled for the shore, collecting a lot of mud on my face and clothing. Everyone at the table that night at supper sure had a good laugh.

The first couple of years were very wet ones so the big slough, south of the farmstead building, was full of water. Dad and the boys made a boat and sometimes, on a Sunday, several young folks would come for a ride. The gulls were very numerous in those years and often the girls' pretty hats would get "decorated". The boys would tease and the girls would cry. They said we should be thankful we had a hat on our head!

Most people believe that chicken races are a fairly new sport. We kids however had one or two way back then. A young rooster was chased until he was winded and then a piece of twine was tied to each wing. We then carried them out to the road and boy, would they go; that is until Mom and Dad came home from the hay field. All racing games, with the roosters, were suspended indefinitely!

Fall was a super time of the year for us kids. Neighbors came to help Mom with thresher meals and Mom would return the favor as a lot of thresher dinners were exchanged among friends. As soon as the crew left our place Mom, and her little helpers, took out the freshly washed bed mattresses and re-filled them with straw from our new straw stacks. I can still remember the fun we had getting on, and staying there, that first night. However, after two or three nights of jumping and playing "King of the Castle", those bulky things were flattened down.

Once in awhile the mists of time will part and scenes as clear as yesterday come stealing back across the years. The joy of summer picnics at different lakes with two or three neighbor families, the excitement of our school Christmas concerts, or the joy of the last day of school, exams over and the picnic about to begin. Sometimes in early spring a play would be practised and presented at several different schools. Oh, the fun and excitement that created! Winter skating parties were common, always with a big fire to warm us. If it was very cold, cake and sandwiches were served in the house, a party and games following. Oh, winter was fun, "when we were young".

Mom and Dad's love of gardening surrounded our old home with flowers of many kinds, and vegetables from the garden filled our needs for the table, summer and winter. Raspberries and strawberries covered many shelves in that old cellar. Red and black currants, hardy crabapples and plums were made into jams and jellies.

The need for flowers the first year prompted

Mom and Dad to plant a wild rose hedge along the yard fence. It was beautiful all summer and in the fall it was covered with red rose berries. The cultivating caused the blooms and berries to be extra large. We kept and enjoyed that hedge for many years.

Poplar logs were cut and squared to make our first chicken house. Mud mixed with straw made good crack filler. We had eggs and fryers to enjoy all winter. Dad also raised sheep for several years and the whole family got into the act of preparing the wool; pulling and then carding it. Each of us had two or three wool-filled comforters before Dad sold the sheep.

A minister, usually Baptist, came out from Camrose several times through the summer and held church services in our home. The neighbors that attended would then stay for visiting and fellowship over lunch.

The early years went by so quickly and all too soon we were grown up. By the early 30's, three of our family were married and had families of their own.

Mom and Dad passed away within the same year, Mom was seventy-three years of age and Dad was seventy-five years of age. Both are lying at rest, side by side, in death as in life, in the Camrose Cemetery.

Alex, the eldest son, gave up farming to be the grain buyer for the Searle Grain Company in Armena, a job he held for eleven years. While living in Armena, he and Clara Mack were married. Later, they moved to Edmonton to raise and educate their four children, Floyd, John, Lola and Lorna. Lloyd lives in Edmonton. John married Verginia Jeske and they have two sons; they reside in Edmonton. Lola married George Calvin and they have two sons, Allen and Blaine. They make their home in the New Norway district. Lorna married John Gandy. They have two sons and two daughters and they live in Drumheller. Alex and Clara Hamilton are retired and presently reside in Camrose.

Beatrice, the eldest daughter, took her early grade schooling at the Busk School, as did her three sisters, with grades nine through twelve taken in Camrose. In December, 1928, Bea married Colin Waterston and they settled on Colin's farm, east of Camrose. Three years later Colin was asked to take over, as managing foreman, the Dr. Berry ranch east of Ohaton. The next fourteen years were very busy ones for as well as farming, Dr. Berry also specialized in raising Aberdeen Angus show cattle. Each summer Colin took those show animals to the Calgary and Edmonton stock shows and sales. In 1944, Colin and Bea bought a farmstead, known as the Harbor Farm, located four miles west of Camrose. Bea and Colin raised three children, Calvin, Gordon, and Florence.

Calvin and Gordon both started their schooling at Green Grove in the Ohaton district. Calvin married Helen Trent of the Rosalind area and they farm west and north of Camrose. They have three children, Kim, Terry and Chrissy. Gordon married Geraldine Kent of Rosalind district and they live across the road from Bea and Colin's place. They have four daughters. Florence is married to LeRoy Borttorff and they made their home in Edmonton after living for several years in Fort MacMurray. They have a family of two boys and one girl. Colin Waterston passed away, at the age of eighty-one years, in May, 1981, after a brief illness.

Edith, the youngest and only Alberta-born child of the family, spent her early school years at the Busk School and later took a business course which prepared her for an office job, which she held for several years, in Edmonton. She married Ralph Budd in July, 1949, and they have spent most of their married life in Red Deer where Ralph had the agency for Alice Chalmers Machine Company. They are semi-retired and presently live on an acreage in west Red Deer. They have two sons, Keith and Jack. Keith, the eldest, is married and lives at Penhold with their son and daughter. Jack works in Red Deer and lives at home.

Guy was born in Ontario and came west, at the age of thirteen years, with his parents and family in April, 1913. After several years of schooling at East Bittern Lake School, he settled on the homestead to help Mom and Dad. He was an outdoors man all his life. Hundreds of muskrat pelts, half a dozen coyotes, and the occasional mink pelt were sold each winter. Many geese, ducks, and prairie chickens were put on our table thanks to him and his gun. Dad and the boys were one of the first in the district to own a tractor; the horses he loved to pet and pamper were soon a thing of the past. After the others had homes of their own and our parents had passed away, Guy took over the farm until his health failed. He spent several months in St. Mary's Hospital before moving to Bethany Sunset Home where he passed away on December 7, 1979.

May Janet was born at Sturgeon Falls, Ontario and came to Alberta with her parents while she was quite young. Her early school days were spent at the Busk School and her high school was taken in Camrose. May married Vernon Stavne of Armena in June, 1934.

Alex D. Hamilton and Clara Mack **written by Clara Hamilton**

Alex D. Hamilton left the home farm, located in the East Bittern Lake district, in 1929, to become the Searle Grain elevator operator in Armena, one mile

north, two miles east and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of the home place. In 1933 Alex Hamilton and Clara Mack of Edmonton were united in marriage, three of their children being born at Armena. They were Lola Alexandra, Floyd Keith and Lorna Elizabeth.

In 1942 Alex accepted a position with the Department of Public Works in Edmonton, moving his family then to Edmonton. One more son was born to this union, namely John Forrest, in 1943. Alex remained with the Government for twenty-two years. He was superannuated from the Research Council in 1964. During these same years of Alex's Government employment, Clara spent twenty years as interior decorator at the T. Eaton Company, turning in her resignation at the time of Alex's superannuation.

The oldest child, Lola married George Calvin and they live on a farm just south of New Norway. They have two boys Allan and Blain. Floyd lives in Edmonton and is a Journeyman Mechanic. Lorna married John Goudy, who is owner and manager of the Inland Plastics Plant in Drumheller. They have four children Wesley, Shauna, Dawn and John Junior. John Hamilton is a Journeyman Mechanic, married to Virginia Jeske and they have two boys Jay and Tyler.

In 1973 the Hamiltons decided to spend the remaining years of retirement in Camrose, where they purchased a home. These have been enjoyable years renewing acquaintances and friendships of long

standing. They became affiliated with the Fellowship Baptist Church nearby. Later when this group built a new church in the Century Meadows area in south Camrose, Alex and Clara were active in the building plans and continue their activity in the congregation. At the time of writing, July 1981, they are still enjoying their retirement to the full.

An Accident

Three people, Alex Hamilton, Clara Mack (Hamilton) and Robert Jacobs narrowly escaped death on Sunday November 22, 1931, when their car, a light coupé, missed the turn onto a bridge at 82 Street, over the Rat Creek Ravine, in Edmonton. The car came to rest at the bottom of the gully, 40 feet down, after turning over at least twice before coming to a stop. The occupants were badly shaken, but only suffered superficial cuts and bruises. The careening car tore out a section of the guard rail which bore the legend, "Where will you spend eternity?" The other end of the railing bore the sign, "Are you prepared to meet your God?" Police officials declared it was a miracle that they were not killed.

Alex Hamilton was a grain buyer at Armena at the time. He and Miss Mack were married in 1934 and lived in Armena village for several years before moving to Edmonton to live. After retirement they moved to Camrose, where they still make their home.

Christopher H. Hanson

Christopher H. Hanson filed on the SE 24-48-21 on November 20, 1900. He got title in April 1905. He lived in his log house on the quarter across the road between Kringens and Staboes. He worked for Edward Lyseng and in his spare time did wood carving. He sold his land to Edward Lyseng and moved to Armstrong, British Columbia. His niece Gertie Od-den Gilbertson and her husband took care of him until his passing.

Gerda Hanson as related by herself

Gerda was born in Svanäs Est., Wilhelmina parish, Sweden, on May 4, 1896. Her parents owned a large estate on which mixed farming and winter logging were the occupations. Being the oldest of four children, Gerda accompanied her father to the fields or in his boat when he fished for salmon. The children tobogganed down to the lake in winter and waded from the shore in the summer to play among the many kinds of fish, and picked water lilies over the side of their parents' row boat.

Midsummer Day in Wilhelmina, Sweden was not only a national holiday, Gerda remembered the mass



Alex Hamilton family. Floyd, Clara, Alex, Lorna, Lola, Johnny.

of weddings in the church on that day. She would sit next to the aisle to get a good view of each bride as couple followed couple to the front to be married. Easter and Pentecost were also wedding days for many couples.

Gerda received a good groundwork in the Swedish language when she attended the first three years of school. On the way to Canada in May, 1905, her father took the family to visit the historical Dome Church in Trondhjem, a nearby artillery field in practice, a suburb of summer houses located high on the mountainside overlooking the city and ocean, and the wharf where boats from all over the world display their flags. After attending church services in Bergen, the family watched the fishing boats come in with their haul and the fishermen's womenfolk meeting them on shore, dressed in shawls and wooden shoes and carrying baskets of food on their arms.

When their company of emigrants travelled across the North Sea in dense fog, they listened to their boat, the Virginia, continually blow its horn to prevent any collision with other vessels. In Hull, England, Gerda's father took the family to visit the Seamen's Mission where a Danish pastor was in charge. The slum children followed the disembarking emigrants like a cloud of mosquitoes, begging for pennies. In the early morning, when the emigrants boarded the train for Liverpool, they saw the slum children creeping out of boxes, drawers, and corners where they had spent the night.

In Liverpool, the family toured a day each at the city's large museum, art gallery, and animal zoo. The most beautiful spectacle of all was on the fourth day out on the calm Atlantic Ocean, when for hours they viewed, from the deck of the boat, the icebergs reflecting the colors of the rainbow in the early morning sunshine.

All these experiences served to help Gerda in her studies. She began English school in the fall of 1907. Only two months before, she and her little brother, Erick, had moved to the Waldum home due to the demise of their parents. It was easy to communicate with school mates who all spoke Norwegian or Swedish, but to speak English during the lessons was most frustrating when the tongue refused to manoeuvre around the words. Nevertheless, Gerda was determined to succeed in her studies to compensate for her loss of parental love.

In June, 1908, a crew of C.P.R. surveyors set up camp behind the Lundemo store. They were staking out a possible route to connect Edmonton with Winnipeg. The men bought their supplies from the store and Waldum's milk, cream, and butter. They washed their clothes in the nearby brook, and held swimming races in the slough. A Swede set up a blacksmith



Hanny, Helga, Erik, August Hanson (seated) Gerda Hanson.

shop next to the crew's horse tent to look after the feet of thirty teams of horses. Ultimately, the C.P.R. decided instead, to extend its railway eastward from Wetaskiwin via Camrose.

One winter evening in 1910 when Gerda was outdoors doing chores at Waldum's, she spied Halley's Comet. At its beginning it appeared in the east just above the horizon. Then the star and tail were very small, yet it was unlike other stars. When she went to and from the barn each night, Gerda stopped to study it, noting that it grew in size and appeared higher in the firmament. After a week's time, the newspapers began to write about it. The star became bigger and clearer and the tail became broader, longer, and brighter. When it stood at its height it looked impressive and majestic but also terrifying. Many people in the community became fearful of God's Judgement Day and held prayer meetings. After Halley's Comet disappeared, the prayer meetings were forgotten!

That summer Gerda was confirmed in the Fridhem Lutheran Church. Since she had a very keen memory, the instruction she'd already received in Sweden made the lessons easy for her. But now she received special enlightenment through Luther's explanation of the little Catechism which held her firm in the faith through life's duties and strife.

Waldum's assisted Gerda to attend High School

in Camrose one year. However, an in-law relative put a stop to her further education. "But" she said, "they can't take my books away from me." She now had to go working in homes, but was thankful to be among Christians. Later she worked in the Hay Lakes store and post office, helped in a home near St. Joseph's Lutheran Church where the wife and mother was sick, and undertook, with Dr. Nordbye's supervision, the care of two cousins who had severe lung inflammation during the 'flu epidemic. After they recovered, she prepared for her wedding on February 12, 1919, in the Wilhelmina Church. She then moved to live on the farm at Czar and reared three children, all of whom are presently living in Camrose.

Erik August Hanson

contributed by his sisters and others

"Lille" Erick was born in Svanäs Est., outside of Wilhelmina, Sweden, on May 6, 1903. His family left their homeland on May 1, 1905 so Erik attained his second birthday on their journey to Canada.

Being the youngest child of four, Erik naturally was given the best attention by his parents, Amandus and Lovisa Hansson. On the morning after they arrived in Wetaskiwin, the family first took a walk to see what there was of the town, and then the girls picked wild flowers while the parents, with Erik, sat down in the tall grass to discuss their plans for the days ahead. The family lived temporarily on the Axel Selin homestead north of Armena and when they walked the paths through the woods to visit neighbors, Erik rode high on his father's shoulders.

In late November, 1905, Lovisa and the children moved into their new home built by Amandus on the homestead before he died earlier in the same month. Erik had just reached his fourth birthday in 1907 when his mother also died. Then he moved with his oldest sister, Gärda, to live with the Waldums at Lundemo.

It is not surprising that the little boy sorely sensed the loss of his mother. Gärda tried to replace her at his evening prayers. It was hard for him to comprehend Gärda's explanations that the Heavenly Father had called his mother to live with Him. Consequently he crept like a shadow around his new home because he had a "lost" feeling. When he started school he was very shy.

Erik was a keen observer. During his boyhood, he frequented the nearby woods where he became acquainted with the natural occupants. He knew exactly where the birds, chipmunks, and other wild life had their homes and, like an expert naturalist, he could identify their characteristics. He also enjoyed skating on the slough at Waldum's, helped with their chores, and became endeared as a son by his foster parents.

As he grew bigger, Erik occasionally visited the Frank Johnsons, Amandus Johnsons to see his sister Helga, and the Erik Hansons to visit his sister Hanny and his cousin Helge. He was full of fun and could produce a piece of artwork on any subject. He entertained by sketching, to perfection in a very few minutes, the faces of different people in the community. He was confirmed in the Wilhelmina Church by Rev. Heiner on Pentecost Day, May 19, 1918.

Always having been big for his age, Erik grew into a sturdy young man, reaching a height of six feet. He had dark curly hair, a pleasant facial expression, and inherited a sterling character. He was admired by others for his unusually polite manners and cheerfulness.

Erik spent some time cutting wood on the Frank Johnson place together with his cousin, Axel Dahlin, who had recently immigrated from Sweden. He also brushed for John Nordin, living near Waldums, and chased their cattle to market in Kingman. It was while he was working that he sweated and got chilled which caused a bad cold which developed into double pneumonia. Within a very few days, his untimely death took place in the Camrose hospital on October 27, 1922, at the age of nineteen years. The "Lundemo correspondent" recorded in the newspaper that "To those with him during his illness, he expressed readiness for the call by his Heavenly Father to his eternal reward".

John and Mary (Scotvold) Hanson

written by Elmer Olson with information supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Emery Hanson

John Hanson was born in Ressa, Norway on August 29, 1864. As a young man he immigrated to South Dakota, U.S.A. Here he became acquainted with Mary Scotvold, who was born June 10, 1877 in Centerville, South Dakota. They were married on May 11, 1895.

John and Mary and family moved to Canada in 1909, bringing with them machinery and livestock. Their home was located on Section 15-47-20-W4, and he also purchased the SW ¼-14-47-20-W4 which was directly east of his home section. The next few years most of this land was cleared and soon was in production.

There were ten children in the family, of which seven of them were boys. The Hanson boys were more spirited and daring than others in the district. Once when an Ice Cream Social was in progress at their farm, the people were, especially the older ones, electrified to see Oscar sitting on the tail of the windmill! There was never a dull moment when we were in their company.

In 1918 John purchased more land, a total of four hundred acres on section 21-47-20-W4, from Knut



John Hanson family home about 1926.

Lyseng. By now Hanson had invested in an Avery tractor and a threshing machine. They did some custom threshing as well as their own.

All was not work on the Hanson farm. The boys were very active in sports especially baseball and hockey. In 1924 the Camrose Hockey team consisted mostly of Hansons with Art Dobbs as goalie. In 1928 five of them namely: Julius, Louis, Joe, Emil and Oscar were members of the Augsburg College Hockey team in Minneapolis, Minnesota. That year they were chosen as representatives of the United States for the Olympic Games. Unfortunately the team was barred from making the trip on the grounds that they were not "representative" enough of the U.S.A.



John Hanson harvesting about 1921.

In the early thirties Hansons retired to live in their home in Camrose. Occasionally John would be seen driving his horse and buggy out to the farm to visit a neighbor for a friendly chat. The community lost a kind friend and neighbor with the passing of John Hanson on October 27, 1938.

Emil continued the farming operations as well as coaching and playing hockey with the Camrose Maroons. Failing health forced his retirement and after a long illness Emil passed away in May, 1955. His name is entered in the "Hockey Hall of Fame" and can be seen at Cadreca Sports Arena in Camrose.



Hanson boys after a successful "shoot".

No members of the Hanson family remained at Camrose so consequently the farm has been sold.

Three members of the family were teachers. Martha (Mrs. Harry Jensen) was one of the early teachers at Baldenstein School and Joseph taught there in 1923-1925. Anne (Mrs. Chester Hagan) taught for several years at the Camrose Lutheran College. Julius and Alfred were ordained Lutheran Ministers. Louis is a Doctor of Chemistry. After finishing professional hockey Emil returned to farming taking over when Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Knudson, (Mae, the youngest child) planned to move. They now make their home in Bloomington, Minnesota. Oscar and Emery ventured into other occupations. Emery and his wife Gertrude (Lewis) live at North Surrey, B.C.

John's sister Hannah Hanson, made her home with the family and was an integral part of all activities on the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hanson were faithful members of the old Moland Church in Camrose, and later in the new Moland Lutheran Church built in 1928, which John helped to build. They were very active in all Church work. Although they were a busy family they always found time to help a neighbor.

Hans and Gunhilde (Ostrem) Hanson written by Mrs. Nora (Hanson) Grue

Hans Hanson was born near the city of Hougessund, Norway. As a young man his occupation was with the Merchant Marine for a period of twelve years. They went to such places as the far East. Later he immigrated to the United States, where he settled in Newman Grove, Nebraska, and took up farming. While there he met his wife to be. He married Gunhilde Ostrem who also had come from Norway.

To this union six children were born: Hilda, Carl, Malvin, Herman, Marie and Nora. Carl passed away at age seventeen and Marie in infancy.

Hilda married George Watland and moved to Camrose, Alberta. The same year tragedy struck as George and some friends ventured on a fishing trip to Dried Meat Lake. By accident the boat overturned and George lost his life by drowning. After the funeral Hilda returned to her parent's home in Newman Grove, Nebraska. The following year Hilda together with her parents and the rest of the family moved back to Camrose, Alberta. Hans Hanson again began farming six and one-half miles northwest of Camrose, located on N½-19-47-20-W4.

Hans and Gunhilde Hanson were faithful to the Lutheran Church and missions. Hans sang in the Lutheran Church Choir in Newman Grove. In Canada they chose the Scandia Lutheran Church as their church home, and served faithfully. Hilda was President of a girls society called the "Dorcas Society", for a time.

Malvin, Herman and Nora were active members of the Scandia Choir, as they loved music. Nora was the church organist for five years. Malvin married Zena Sheets, and they had one son Clark Hanson. After farming for a few years Malvin entered the Rawleigh business. Herman married Myrtle Olson, daughter of Elling Olson, and they had two daughters, Emily and Margery. Herman and family moved to Alliance, Alberta, and his occupation also became a Rawleigh business which he was involved with for twenty-two years.

Nora married Theodore Grue and they had a family of four children: Geneva, Harland, Louise and Eileen. Both Theodore and Nora Grue still live in their home in Edmonton surrounded by children and grandchildren, and periodically make visits to relatives in Camrose.

Amandus and Lovisa Hansson by their late daughter Gärda

It was in 1895 that Adam Amandus Hansson, twenty-seven years old, married twenty year old Eva Lovisa Henriksdotter. Both were the oldest in their respective large families which lived in and around Wilhelmina, Sweden. Amandus was six feet tall, had dark curly hair, was healthy, strong, buoyant in spirit, and persevering while his wife was equally staunch in Christian character and genteel in nature and physique. (These characteristics are visible in many of their descendants, even down to their forty-five great grandchildren grown to adulthood in the 1980's.)

This couple possessed a mixed farm where, in the summertime, various hay crops were raised for their different animal stock. In the winter they hired as many as thirty-five men for logging on their property. Every spring the logs were channeled into a

brook, down to the river, and across the lake near the town to the mills.

Amandus also was a profound reader. In their home they had a library of classical and Christian books by European authors. (If any reader finds some of his many books brought to this land, their children would appreciate getting them.) The family frequently sang together, especially hymns. On summer week-ends they rowed their boat and in the winter they drove the sled over the lake, singing on the way, to attend church services in Wilhelmina and visits afterwards. (Cousin Eva Samson, in 1961, recalled that their little girls sang as they rowed to the railway station en route to Canada.)

For ten years Amandus had been reading and aspired to join the emigrants to the American Midwest but his relatives and wife kept discouraging him. However, when strife arose in 1905 between Sweden and Norway, he was determined to go to the newly advertised settlement of Western Canada. In vain did his wife and relatives remonstrate.

Early in the spring of 1905 Amandus sold his farm, held an auction sale, and between farewell parties, the couple worked steadily to prepare for their departure. By this time, seven more wanted to join their company of six. The train took them to Trondhjem on the seacoast of Norway. From there the steamship, Virginia, sailed through dense fog on the North Sea to Hull, England, and a train carried the emigrants to Liverpool. They embarked on a boat, Tunisia, to cross the Atlantic Ocean, calm waters all the way. The ship's interpreter for the hundreds of Europeans aboard was a Swede from Småland who could speak seven languages.

The family took extra time in Trondhjem, Bergen, Hull, Liverpool and the smaller Quebec City to see the most interesting sights. After that their journey was uninterrupted through the Ontario woods, into the farmland to Winnipeg, and across the prairies where farmyards and C.P.R. stations were sparse and scattered. In Calgary they changed trains to go northwards. On the Bow River bridge the train braked suddenly and in time, someone had laid a long piece of rail across the track. They were thankful that no one was hurt.

As the family walked from the train station to the Wetaskiwin Hotel they felt a twinge of loneliness for their fatherland: they sensed the distinct contrast of disorder, dirt, and dust in this town under construction. On Sunday evening they attended the Swedish Lutheran Church services. Only the church's first floor was laid, boards were set up for benches, a little table served for a pulpit, and there was no altar built yet, all which created a feeling of desolation.

Soon Amandus and the four other men of their company set out in search of a place to settle. They trekked eastward, carrying with them a little handaxe and a compass. The first night they arrived at an English storekeeper's on the edge of a lake. Next day they came to a Swedish settler who directed them to where homesteads could be found. Another fifteen miles and they reached farmer Selin.

It was in late May and the woods and sloughs were teeming with different wildlife. They dug here and there with a shovel and discovered that the rich black loam was from one to three feet deep. Amandus took NE 10-49-21 W4 and proceeded to Edmonton to pay his \$10.00 (ten dollars) and arrange for purchases to develop and build on the place. Meanwhile, Selin and a companion drove the lumber wagon to fetch Lovisa, her children, and their boxes out of the Wetaskiwin Hotel which was operated by a Swede.

Amandus and his family first stayed with two bachelors in the district. Then they moved into the log shack on Axel Selin's homestead. They met more and more Swedish "newcomers" (a new word to them) and visited in some homes. One family from the United States had already lived there six years and took them along to the occasional church service.

On one warm July evening, the parents and children followed the trail two miles through the woods to visit Waldums, who were living close by their store. There Amandus was delighted to find newspapers covering the events about Sweden and Norway and read that the Danish prince, Carl, was crowned as Norway's king, taking the name Haakon. They found the Waldums congenial people and subsequently developed a warm friendship with them.

The family attended the all-day first confirmation service in the Fridhem Lutheran Church which also was only partially finished. In the afternoon service the pastor invited those who wished to join the congregation to come to the front of the church. Amandus, his brothers Erik and Peter, and other "newcomers" responded.

On his homestead, Amandus put up fodder for the six cows and the one small pig which he had purchased. He cut sufficient fuel for the winter, dug the well, and erected the barn. Most of the house was built and he planned that his family would move in before snow came. But one day in late October, he aimed to shoot at some small wildlife and the shot didn't go off. When he opened the gun and proceeded to take out the shot, it backfired through his eye. A few days later, on November 4, 1905, he died. His grave, dug by his cousin and a helper, was the first one in the Fridhem churchyard.

Neighbors helped to finish the house so Lovisa and the children moved in one month before Christ-

mas. In February that winter, Pastor Almgren, who served the Fridhem congregation, met a controversial accidental death west of Wetaskiwin. He was buried just up the slope above Amandus' grave. In the ensuing months, Lovisa thought much about his widow living in Wetaskiwin and their two graves in the lonely churchyard, for Rev. Almgren had had an impressive visit with Amandus and Lovisa earlier in 1905, at the time they sponsored the baptism of a neighbor's child.

The following summer, 1906, was very dry and the smell of prairie fires reached the settlement when the wind blew from the south and east. One of the men in their immigrant company, Mr. Carlson, helped Lovisa to procure a pony and cart with which she could drive the seven miles to Lundemo store for herself and the neighbors and trade her butter and eggs for groceries. She had to hire to have fodder put up and wood cut for the next winter.

That winter was unexpectedly long and hard. Heavy snow came on November 1st. For the next four days the snow continued, piling up to three feet. Then came the cold. As soon as the temperature rose it snowed again. Lovisa waded through the deep snow to feed and water the animals. The trails through the woods were blocked so weeks passed between the times when people could travel to the store. The cows gave no milk and the hens no eggs so money dwindled. Lovisa was not strong physically and mourned the loss of her husband to help her.

As a result of the cruel winter, sickness set in among the settlers in the district and many died. In the late spring Lovisa, whose resistance was low, succumbed to a month's sickness. Before she died she prayed to her Heavenly Father to look after her children. Gärda, Hanny, Helga, and Erik August, ranging in ages from eleven to four years. On the day of her funeral, June 1, 1907, the service, which took place in the Rev. Hanson's (no relation) residence two miles north of Armena, snow still lay in the woods although the field's springwork was nearly completed. Lovisa had often sung "I'm A Pilgrim and I'm A Stranger", and this indeed was what her life had become as a "newcomer".

Now the children sorrowed deeply for both parents. "If pappa had not died, then mamma wouldn't have either" they sobbed to each other. Because some women gathered about, Gärda sought refuge in the woods to cry. The children were separated into three different homes. Suddenly they were not children any longer who played, but children who had to work long and hard hours.

The Heavenly Father did enfold Lovisa's children in His loving care. One by one, all came to unashamedly acknowledge their Lord and Savior and

live in fellowship with Him. They, who had been deprived of even a public school education, were rewarded to see their own children well-educated, some completing from eight to ten years of post-secondary training, and one son has been a frequent guest professor in several universities in and outside of America.

History of Iva M. Harber (1927-1933)

Miss Iva M. Harber came to Armena, from Sifton District, to teach at the Busk School, No. 2120, in the fall of 1927 from the Camrose Normal School. She taught one day and the school was closed on account of a Polio outbreak. She taught for six school years without missing one single day! Miss Harber taught grades one to eight and supervised grades nine to eleven while the pupils took lessons by correspondence. These students were: Hazel Erickson, Andy Erickson, Clara Fetzner, Margaret Hamilton, Helen Moore, Palmer Olson, Rudy Kaser, Harold Rolseth, and Ellen Soderstrom.

One interesting episode happened to Ellen Soderstrom while sleighriding one Saturday. She had a fresh egg in her coat pocket. At the end of her sleigh riding it was still intact!

In 1927, she boarded at Swan Soderstrom's and his daughter Nora for one year. In 1928 and '29 she boarded at Jim Erickson's, driving to school with horses in 48 degrees below weather. For shorter periods she boarded at W. J. Moore's and Alex Hamilton's Sr. In the fall of 1929 she moved to Evald and Minnie Soderstrom's and boarded there for four years. She left Busk School in the summer of 1933 after six years in succession with this comment, that

she was either a good teacher or the school board was easy to please.

The end of June 1933 she was swept away in a black top buggy and two flying steeds by Juluis E. Olson. The summer holidays of 1933 were spent attending Bible School held at Camrose Lutheran College under Pastors G. M. Trygstad and C. A. Gisselquist. From September 1933, to March 1934, she attended the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute and obtained a one year certificate.

Ralph and Fannie Hatfield

by Velma Gooch

The Hatfields arrived from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 1919 as a newly married couple. Fannie had been a teacher and Ralph at times a logger and farmer.



Ralph Hatfield, South Ohio, Nova Scotia — November, 1954. "Star and Brown" hauling up windfall logs after Hurricane Edna's visit.

They built a cozy home which had in it unique, handcrafted furniture, goose-feather mattresses, hooked rugs, etc. They cultivated a magnificent garden on the southern slope of what became known as Lundemo, the post office being within their home. Fannie was district correspondent to the Camrose Canadian for many years.

Although they had no children of their own, they were like a kind auntie and uncle to the children of the neighborhood. This couple of Baptist faith, always lent a helping hand to anyone in need.

They left the neighborhood in the 1950's and went to live in Edmonton, in Bonnie Doon. Later, as they grew older, they returned to their home community north of Yarmouth. Ralph died at the age of eighty-nine, almost ninety, and Fannie lived on at Hebron Senior Citizen Home. Nearly ninety, she too has now passed on.

In one of her last letters West, Fannie wrote of her many recent visitors and visits, one of which had been to MacKinnon's Point, her childhood home. She delighted in seeing again the old buttons on the



Busk school pupils 1930. Back Row: Harold Rolseth, James Moore, Iva Harber (teacher), Edith Hamilton, Pearl Erickson, Marvin Rolseth. Front Row: Paul Rolseth, Torbjorn Rolseth, Erna Shultz, Jack Moore, Stanley Erickson.



Mr. Hatfield, Wedgeport, Nova Scotia — August, 1954. Tuna weights — 485 pounds and 525 pounds.



Mrs. Fannie Hatfield among her flowers, 1962.



Hatfield farm.

doors for fastenings instead of knobs, the barn still standing with its great hewn timbers, and the old stone walls amid the great oaks and fruit-bearing trees.

Even at almost ninety, Fannie kept up a remarkably active, happy life. She had continued to rise at five, which was their custom on the farm, and had just completed twenty-four pairs of children's mitts, lots of sweaters and men's socks, besides continuing her correspondence with large circles of friends.

Certainly many lives were enriched by this fine couple, the Hatfields, and we were fortunate to have them as "builders" of our community for so many years.

Martha E. Hendrickson and Bob Hardy

Martha Elevine Hendrickson, Canadian born in 1904, was educated at Thordenskjold, C.L.C. and Edmonton Technical Schools, later returning to C.L.C. for a commercial course. She married Robert Hardy in 1926, and they lived in Camrose where Bob worked for the Provincial Government at the Camrose Normal School until they moved to Vancouver in 1938. There they ran a Confectionery Store and Sub-post Office. After some years there Robert joined the Odeon Theatre chain and worked there until retirement.

Martha and Bob had two daughters Nola Marion, born in 1931 and Hazel Roberta born in 1937. Hazel died in infancy and is buried in Scandia Cemetery at Armena. Nola married Mario Crema who was born in 1928. They have a son born in 1969, Robert Anthony.

Mario works at the Pacific National Exhibition, where he is a carpenters foreman. Mario also played Lacrosse on two world champion Lacrosse teams and was recently inducted into the Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Pastor Leonard Heiner

biography by V. J. Tengwald

submitted by Dorothy Heiner Knudson

Pastor Leonard Heiner was born in Bredaryds

congregation at Jonkopings district in Sweden, on March 20, 1880. At the age of seven, his mother died and before he had celebrated his twelfth birthday, his father passed away. At an early and young age he was literally thrown out into the world to shift for himself.

He left Sweden at the age of fourteen, shortly after his confirmation, and arrived in the United States. He visited an older brother, in Chicago, for some time where he, like so many newcomers, experienced trying times.

As a young man he desired to enter into the business world for himself and, to prepare himself accordingly, he enrolled in a business course at the North Park College. In 1904, he graduated and managed his own business.

On December 5, 1905 he married Hilda Johnson and to this union a daughter, Margaret, was born. After a short eight years of married life, the Lord called his help-mate home, on December 12, 1913. During this time he had the opportunity to meet other immigrants through the Mission Society and again take up further studies at North Park College, from which he completed his exams in the spring of 1913.

Heiner never really felt completely satisfied with in the Mission Society, nor with the limited theological knowledge he had acquired. Before he completed his studies at North Park, he had joined the Swedish Lutheran Augustana congregation in Hyde Park, Chicago. Within that congregation and especially through a friendship with Pastor V. H. Hegstrom, he became well acquainted with the synodical affairs and participated diligently thereafter in the congregation and synod.

While Dr. Hegstrom was on a visit to Sweden, he wished that Heiner might seek entrance into the Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island. Upon the recommendation of V. J. Tengwald, a man who had come to know the remarkable and studious gifts of the man, Heiner gained entrance and studied at the Rock Island Seminary until the summer of 1915. He was ordained in Minneapolis on June 13, 1915, upon a call to the Fridhem, Camrose; Wilhelmina, Lundemo; and Gustavus Adolfus Congregation in Kingman, Alberta. Before his departure to this vast parish, he married Signe Magnuson. To this union two children, Edward and Dorothy, were born.

During his last three years of service to his Lord and church, he served as conference secretary and participated as a member of the working committee with great vigor and enthusiasm in the conference affairs. Besides his own parish, he was often out on mission travels in the widespread Alberta district.

In the beginning of November, 1918, when the Spanish Flu began to take its toll, he wrote to his close friend, V. J. Tengwald, that "the sickness is worse in this part of Alberta and is spreading. I don't visit the sick unless I'm called but, then I see it as my



Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Heiner, Edward and Margaret.



Mrs. Heiner, Edward, and Dorothy.

duty to go regardless how dangerous it may be. Have visited several homes where all are sick. I am still well — God be Praised.” This did not separate the beloved pastor from the danger of the dreaded disease but, because of his concern and love for his people, Heiner extended himself to the point of danger so often that even he was to die from the dreaded influenza. He passed away on November 18, 1918.

When he was nearing the end, he commented to his loved ones, family and people, “It is good to be ready to die before sickness comes or cripples both body and soul”. During his last days he prayed to God and his beloved wife for forgiveness for all he had failed in. “But what” wrote his wife, “did you have to ask forgiveness for? If there was any who failed, it would be me.”

On the last day of his life here on earth he sang and found peace in the words of the hymn writer. Shortly before he lapsed into unconsciousness, he sang “See Jesus is a Trusted Name” as well as the hymn “Take the Name of Jesus with you”. Heiner loved music and song and now he would sing to the glory of God in clear, jubilant tones, in Heaven where death is no more.

Under provincial jurisdiction it was necessary that burial take place immediately so neither congregation nor conference had time to place a flower on such an esteemed pastor’s grave. Flowers are such a fleeting thing but thankfulness and a beautiful memory live on.

An inspiring memorial service was held at the Fridhem Church on February 9, 1919, when all the Alberta district pastors attended and the dearly departed pastor’s life’s work was highly praised. After the singing of a hymn, the district missionary, Pastor E. M. Eriksson, gave a dynamic talk on Hebrews 13:7. The widow of Rev. Almgren sang a solo before the district president, Pastor O. Lingren, spoke on Isaiah 57:1-2. A quartet then sang the departed’s favorite song “Take the Name of Jesus With You” to which Mrs. Almgren had composed a suitable verse. Sympathy cards and letters were read by Pastor Otto Eklund.

While the sun sank slowly in the west, the congregation gathered by the beloved shepherd’s grave to sing the hymn — “I walk toward death wherever I go” (translated from Swedish).

Thus the memorial service ended, with the benediction and the everlasting words of the Psalmist, “I go to heaven where I go, if Jesus I follow”.

Heiner Family

biography by V. J. Tengwald

submitted by Dorothy Heiner Knudson

Pastor Leonard Heiner, Mother, Signe (Magnus-

son) who had taken Deaconess training in Omaha, Nebraska, and Margaret came to Fridhem in June, 1915. Edward and I (Dorothy) were born in the Fridhem parsonage.

After our father died, we lived at Fridhem until the following spring when we moved to Miquelon Lake. We lived there until mother married Oscar Bard. Until we were old enough to be on our own, we lived on the Bard farm. Fridhem continued to be our church home. Mother died Christmas morning 1964, at the age of seventy-three years.

Margaret attended school in Camrose, staying at the home of Pastor C. G. Gronberg. She later attended the Normal School and has taught at Miquelon, Brandland, Lyseng, Thronson, and Thordenskjold Schools. She married William Skaret on July 28, 1927. They had three children, Herbert, Arlene Person, and Rodney, who was but a year old when their father died on December 22, 1937. Margaret married Martin Hendrickson on December 31, 1941 and passed away July 18, 1970.

Edward married Ruby Grahn on January 9, 1939, and they live in Edmonton. They have two daughters, Phyllis Terrepoeki and Sharon Duplessis, and three granddaughters. Edward hauled oil well service rigs for a number of years and for the last fifteen years was in passenger elevator construction.

I married Lars Knudson on June 17, 1942. Lars had just completed seminary training and had been ordained in May. We have since served parishes at Hanley, Margo, and Elbow in Saskatchewan, Sedgewick and Claresholm in Alberta, and Pass Lake in Ontario where, due to failing health, Lars retired. In April, 1977, we moved back to Camrose and in 1979, Lars was admitted to the nursing care center where he continues to receive loving care and his physical needs are well taken care of. We have three children, Marion Eberle, an R.N., David, a Lutheran pastor who serves a two-point parish at Leader, Saskatchewan, and Daniel, a correctional officer at the correctional institute in Mission, British Columbia. We have six grandchildren.

Gilbert O. Hendrickson and Martine Lyseng

In 1870 Gilbert O. Hendrickson at the age of eleven years emigrated with his parents from Norway to Minnesota where he grew up. In 1884 he married Martine Lyseng, daughter of Knut E. Lyseng.

G. O. Hendrickson was first and foremost a salesman, a businessman, an avid horseman and farmer. His church and community were of utmost importance to him. In Minnesota he was a travelling salesman for the McCormick-Deering Harvester Compa-

ny. On one of his trips to Minneapolis he was confronted by land agents promoting free homestead land in the North West Territories, Canada. After listening to them, he too, was smitten with the "Canada Fever". Upon returning home he and some of the relatives left for Canada, arriving at Wetaskiwin where they were met by Mr. Ed Thompson (the land man) who took them to the north and east as far as Pretty Hill.

The decision was made, the district, now known as Armena, was to be the place. There they found a group of Lutheran people who had already established a school house, and where there would be the necessary amenities available. Before returning to the U.S.A., G. O. Hendrickson made arrangements with Frank Nelson (a squatter) to move off the NW-10-48-21-W4, paying him for the improvements.

In August 1901, Hendrickson purchased horses, cows, machinery, some chickens and engaged railroad cars at Clinton, Minnesota. He loaded these purchases as well as household goods and family,

including his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Knut E. Lyseng, aged 77 and 73 years respectively, and moved to Canada. Everything loaded, Gilbert, his eldest son Henry and his father-in-law rode in the box cars attending to live stock. Mrs. Hendrickson, seven of her children and her mother rode in the caboose. Provided with food and drink they began their long trip to Canada.

Some distance along, the train stopped to do some switching. Martine, with the help of her mother, took the opportunity to prepare a meal for her family. The train shunted, Grandmother was thrown off balance falling onto a five gallon water jug cracking one of her ribs. This event changed the plans. Mrs. Hendrickson, the children and Grandmother Lyseng had to purchase tickets on a passenger train to make travelling more comfortable for Grandmother. They crossed the Canadian-American line at Portal, stopping at the Immigration Office in Calgary, then on to Wetaskiwin. On the way Indians were camped along the road. Brother Ed, wanting to get a good look, stuck his head out the window. Off went his



G. O. Hendrickson family. Left to Right, Back Row: Mabel Walker, Ed, Henry, George, Emil, Carrie Scotvold. Front: Mary Rustand, Ella Sylviski, G. O., Helmer, Martine, Martha Hardy, Anne Anderson.

cap. Needless to say how embarrassing it was for him, as in those days no man or boy would be seen without a cap or hat. They arrived in Wetaskiwin August 23, 1901, and found a place to stay at Mrs. Olstad's boarding house to await the arrival of the freight train which came about a week later.

One day while they were there Mary and George were sent to the store to buy a pound of coffee. Mary said, "I would like a pound of coffee please". The clerk replied, "Brown or Green?" The children looked at each other in bewilderment, then Mary asked again for a pound of coffee, and pointed to the brown. Receiving the coffee they ran to mother all excited exclaiming, "They have green coffee in Canada." Their Mother and Grandmother smiled, and Mother gave them money and told them to buy a pound of green coffee. Their Grandmother showed them how to make the green coffee brown, by spreading the beans onto a pan and placing it into a warm oven, stirring occasionally. When nicely browned she put butter on the beans and stored them in a jar. (Green coffee sold for 12¢ a pound).

The freight train arrived; the contents was unloaded and a man by the name of Hans Sandbu met the Hendricksons in Wetaskiwin, loaned them the team and wagon he had, and assisted them to reload. Soon the caravan was on its way.

The two wagons took the lead followed by the cattle with Henry and Ed being herdsman on foot. Next came the single horse and buggy with Carrie and Grandmother Lyseng. Bringing up the rear was Mrs. Hendrickson and the rest of her family in the "surrey with the fringe on top". It had been raining, so with great difficulty, they reached the bottom of the steep hill leading to the Pipestone Creek only to find the bridge washed out. The hill was too steep to turn the wagons around on so they turned the buggies first, tipping the single buggy. Carrie fell out, more frightened than hurt. Next they had to convince the cattle that they now had to follow the buggies instead of the wagons. The only way they could maneuver the wagons uphill again was to take one wagon at a time connecting one team to the back of the wagon and the other team had to back up the front of the wagon. Mr. Sandbu knew of an old Indian ford about half a mile further east that made it possible to cross. Due to this delay they could not reach their destination by nightfall. Coming to a settler by the name of Evenson, they asked for shelter for the night, which was willingly granted. Mrs. Evenson was ill in bed upstairs so Mrs. Hendrickson put her nursing skills to work, and in the morning before they left gave her a nice breakfast.

The next day they arrived at Sam Steen's place in Armena district. He had a small shack with a sod roof



Four generation picture, 1914. Knut E. Lyseng, (right) daughter Martine, (left) granddaughter Carrie Scotvold, and (front) great-granddaughter Margerite Scotvold.

that he let Hendrickson use for shelter until Frank Nelson could move to his brother Pete Nelson, who lived further east. Frank Nelson filed on the NW¼-10-48-20-W4. It was raining and the roof on the shack was not all water proof, so after a bed was set up for the Grandparents, Mrs. Hendrickson nailed an oil cloth to the rafters over their bed, to keep it as dry as possible. Mrs. Hendrickson and baby Martin slept on a bachelor's single cot. The girls slept in the beds made on the floor and menfolk found shelter in a tent.

There was an open well on the Steen place and all children were instructed not to go near it. One day while Anne and Mary were left to care for the home, they became very thirsty. Anne suggested they milk a cow. "I know where the cows went", she said. They took a bowl and found the bell cow that was very gentle. "They just grab the teat and squeeze", said Anne. Mary tried first with one hand. No milk. Then she used both hands but still no milk. Then Anne tried but to no avail. That evening Anne, determined to find out how they got milk, went along with the men. Yes, she found out.

After a few days the move was made into the new home. There were three log buildings on the homestead. The house was an 18x22 foot, one room spruce log structure. The joists above the room were open so boards were placed on top making the space usable. Up there two bedsteads were set up for the older children. A large chest, the spinning wheel and carders, rolls of hand-woven carpet and boxes of extra bedding and clothing were also stored there. Down stairs two more beds were set up, and a table and a

stove. Packing boxes used as cupboards, were not large enough to hold all the china so surplus dishes and furniture had to be piled outside on the ground with a tent over top. In the spring some prized pieces of chinaware were found broken, and the veneered chairs warped.

One of the first things they did was to plant the sugar plums and rhubarb roots. Next, being without a separator and having a lot of milk, large packing cases were nailed onto two large trees, shelves were built in them so pans of milk could be stored long enough to permit the cream to rise to the top for skimming. One night, September 23, 1901, a heavy snowfall came. The added weight broke the boxes partly loose. The milk pans were jammed one pan into another. It is needless to say what happened to the milk.

The winter of 1901-1902 was very trying for the Hendrickses. They did not have enough garden vegetables of their own, and none were available in the stores. The kind families of Lomnes, Moe and Kelstad shared some of their own produce with them. Later on in the winter they were able to buy frozen potatoes. Grues shared home ground flour. On January 14, 1902 a son Helmer was born (the first Canadian of the family).

That winter a two-room lean-to was built onto the north side of the log house. During the winter G. O. Hendrickson went up north by Miquelon Lake and felled trees which were taken to Thore Grue's saw mill and sawn into lumber. Then the next summer, with the help of Cornelius Grue, a 16x14 1½ story house was built for Knute E. Lyseng and wife. Also during the summer of 1902 other children of Knut E. Lyseng with their families immigrated to Canada, arriving at the G. O. Hendrickson farm. What a happy reunion that must have been!

In the fall of 1904 while Mr. Hendrickson was out threshing, a diphtheria epidemic spread through the district claiming several children including Martin who died on November 11, at the age of five years. Dr. G. G. Stewart of Camrose was called and vaccinations were given throughout the district.

On December 3, 1904, Martha (the second Canadian of the family) was born. She also was stricken with diphtheria. Mary the second oldest daughter lay between life and death, losing voice and eyesight for quite some time. She was unable to eat anything. A neighbor, Mrs. Kelstad, heard about it and knowing Mary used to enjoy a certain cheese she made, brought some to her and that got her eating again.

With Mr. Hendrickson away and the boys ill, the Henry Hendrickses came and did the chores, leaving the milk outside the door for the family.

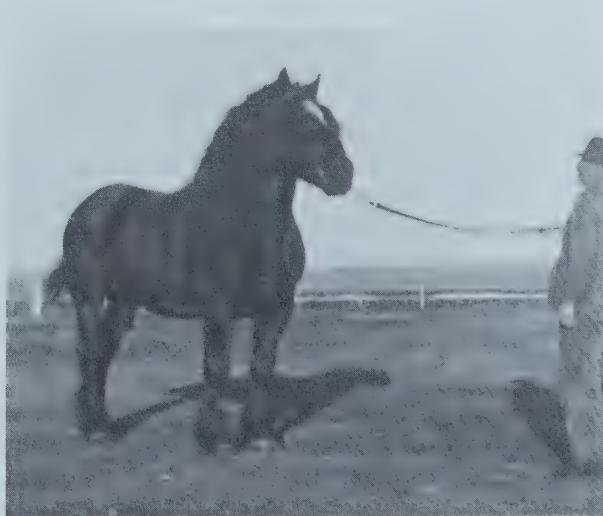
During World War I some of the boys answered

the call of duty. The first one to enlist was Ed, but he was turned down for health reasons. George joined up and became batman for Major Gibson at Camp Sarcee in Calgary, and did not go overseas. Henry, an American citizen, had returned to live in U.S.A. When he came up to visit his folks, he was confronted by a military officer and joined the Canadian Army, but not for long. When his records were checked, and he was found to be an American citizen, he was discharged. He then returned to the States.

The Hendrickses, getting on in years, felt it was time to call a halt to farming. Their son George and wife Magda took over the farm from 1923 to 1927, then the farm was sold to son Ed and his wife Josephine. In 1928 the Hendrickses and daughter Ella moved to the hamlet of Armena, and built a house there. Helmer Hendrickson did the building. It was later sold to the Scandia Lutheran Congregation to be used as a parsonage.

As previously mentioned, Mr. Hendrickson was a horseman, and having been a Veterinarian's assistant in the U.S.A. was able to cope with many animal problems in the district. During the earlier years in Canada, he went together with another fellow and purchased a car load of Broncos, breaking some and selling others. He bought a prize-winning Percheron stallion from Mr. T. Ostrem. As money was scarce and a neighbor Mr. John E. Broen (with the money) wanted a team of horses that Ed had, horse trading began. Results? Ostrem got his money, G. O. Hendrickson his stallion, and Broen his team of horses.

In the community G. O. took on many duties. He was a Commissioner of Oaths, and enumerator. When the roads were being constructed he was ap-



Kellerman-percheron stallion owned by G. O. Hendrickson.

pointed by the government to be foreman of the bridgebuilding. He took an active part in all church work and was the first president of the Scandia Lutheran Congregation, and a founder of Camrose Lutheran College. He passed away in Armena in 1931.

Martine (Lyseng) Hendrickson was born in 1866, in Norway; coming to the U.S.A. in 1868, with her parents Knut E. Lysengs. She was known far and wide for her capability of caring for the sick. She was not an R.N. but from time to time was called to the first Camrose Hospital by Drs. Lamb, Craig and Nordbye, as a nurse and an anesthetist. She was best known as a midwife delivering many babies, including Dr. Nordbye's youngest, a daughter Alta. Seven pairs of twins were on her list of deliveries.

A few weeks later Knut E. Lyseng and wife (unable to perform household duties for themselves) moved to live with other members of their family. At this time the lean-to was removed from the log house and attached to the north side of the 1½ story structure. Hendricksons then moved into it. Here in February 1909 a daughter Ella was born.

In April of that year Mr. Hendrickson purchased a general store in Holden, Alberta from George P. Smith, moving there with his family. His daughter Mary was in charge of the post office and accounting. This property was sold in 1910 to Mr. Solund of Bittern Lake, and Hendricksons moved back to the farm.

1910 was the year the Canadian Northern Railway began the 37.83 mile grade between Bretona and Camrose junction, passing through the Lyseng-Hendrickson settlement. The C.N.R. named this area Armena. By 1912 the trains were running. (Ed Hendrickson and his chum Nels Prestien rode the first train pulled by a steam engine. They also rode the train the last time a steam engine was used on that line in 1962.)

In 1912 the phone lines came through the district. Ella aged three, remembers the telephone men fastening the box onto the wall in their living room, then talking to her sister Carrie Scotvold in Camrose. The men also shared dinner with the family. Grandfather Lyseng was very perturbed and would not use the phone as he said it was wrong to speak to spirits in the wall.

The family soon outgrew the little house, so in 1913 a two storey 18x32 foot structure was built onto the west side of the 1½ storey house making a large 10 room house. In 1914 their daughter Carrie and husband Enoch Scotvold came to live with her parents for one year. While there, their youngest daughter Katherine was born. In 1915 a foster daughter Martha (Minnie) Parks and her baby daughter Bernice was



The finished frame home of G. O. Hendrickson.

added to the family. Hendrickson said "The pots that cooked for the other twelve could cook for two more!" Minnie married Harry Smith and had Hazel and Jean. Minnie is now Mrs. Thompson. Bernice became the foster daughter of Anne and Bennie Anderson of Bardo, and later married Marvin Johnson and they have one son Dennis born in 1940. Dennis is married and lives at Winterburn.

During the flu' epidemic of 1918, Mrs. Hendrickson was away from home for as long as six weeks at a time being taken from place to place wherever she was needed most. Her son Ed would pick up the medication from the doctors in Camrose, delivering it to his mother. Hendrickson's parlor was converted into a sick ward many times, for isolation, and maternity and one time it was used when a long (several yards) tapeworm was removed from a patient.

Mrs. Hendrickson had many skills, such as handi-craft, spinning, weaving, crocheting, knitting and sewing. Cheese making was one of her specialties. No rennet was available those days but she prepared her own tripe to be used in cheese-making by taking the fourth stomach of a suckling calf or sheep, cleaning and cutting it into strips, then sun-drying it, thus preserving it for future use. She took many prizes at the Camrose Fairs for her flowers, garden produce and handi-crafts. She was a mother of twelve children and foster mother of two, but always found time for church duties. She often thanked the good Lord for her gifts of knowledge and strength. She passed away in 1937 and is buried in the Scandia cemetery beside other members of her family.

One skill, which all pioneer women sooner or later learned, was the art of making quilts to keep the growing families comfortable at night. During the sixties and seventies a revival of quilt making has taken place, but these quilts are given to needy people here or overseas. It is remarkable what lovely creations can be made from old or new materials,

carefully pieced together, in many colors and patterns. The picture shows a quilt made by some of the Armena ladies, probably in the late twenties: Standing left to right are: Mrs. Knut K. Lyseng, Mrs. Carl Lyseng, Mrs. George Lyseng, Mrs. Ed Hendrickson, Mrs. John Walker, at whose home the party was held, and Mrs. Bert Lomnes. Sitting, left to right are: Mrs. Lars Hong, Mrs. G. O. Hendrickson and Mrs. Henry Hendrickson.

The stories of the G. O. Hendrickson children and families will now be given.

O. Henry Hendrickson

Henry was born in the U.S.A. in 1885 and came to Canada in 1901 with his parents. On December 21, 1903 he filed on a homestead SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -14-48-21-W4, getting patent number 20-02-08, which later became part of the Ole Movald farm. He attended Bethania College at Everett, Washington to finish his high schooling. Then he returned to Canada where he worked in Wetaskiwin for Mr. Anderson, later working for Duncan Sampson in Camrose for many years. He returned to the States where he became a Surveyor and driller of water wells. He married Edith Engstrom of Conrad, Montana, where they lived out their days. They had no children.



Henry and Edith Hendrickson.

Edward and Josephine Knutsvig Hendrickson by Irene Moore

In 1927 Ed married Josephine Knutsvig Jones and together with her daughters Florence and Irene, moved to his farm in the Camrose North area (near Round Hill). Florence went to Lyseng School for the



Edward, Josephine, Irene, Florence, Bruce and Arthur.

first part of Grade one. Then in 1928 Ed bought the home place, NW- $\frac{1}{4}$ -10-48-21-W4, west of Armena. This farm included the two quarter sections south of the home place. Not much of this land was cleared so there was a great deal of tree chopping, stump pulling and root picking to be done. At that time there were many men seeking farm employment and it seemed that the table was always set for a dozen or more. A number of men would ask to stay during the winter, working for their room and board. This was wood sawing and chopping time and the wood pile was enormous. We knew it was good to have all that wood for the kitchen stove, but we also knew who had to carry it in to the wood box.

One April Sunday morning, Florence and Irene just couldn't understand why they should go to celebrate Aunt Mabel's birthday by themselves. However they were pleased to find out that a baby brother with dark curly hair, was waiting to be looked at, held and "ahhed" over. So, Bruce Edward was born on his Aunt Mabel's birthday that April 14, 1929, a fact that the girls were both pleased about.

It was fall 17 months later; the threshing crew had been busy at our place for a few days and lots of cooking and baking was being done. Then one morning we awoke to see several inches of snow on the ground and a new baby brother had also arrived during the night, with the assistance of his Grand-

mother Hendrickson. Arthur Earl was born September 24, 1930. He came with the snow which stopped the threshing, but the household continued to be very busy and we all enjoyed having another baby to love.

There always seemed to be lots of work to do all the time, but there was always time for Ed to play horse shoe when the Rawleigh Man came in the summer, and trading horses in the winter. Of course when we got our first radio that was quite wonderful. There were hockey games, Ma Perkins, Lux Theatre, Amos and Andy, etc., and music to listen to. The sad part was that often the batteries would go dead in the middle of the winter and then we did without. To overcome this Ed had a wind-charger mounted on top of the house and this kept the battery charged, (when the wind blew). It also whirled us to sleep at night.

Farm summer holidays were not common in those days. Ours might be a day or two out at Crystal Springs, Pigeon Lake.

Josephine was kept busy cooking and sewing for the family, plus the many household chores to be done. One fall she took a look at her old coat and decided it was too worn out to wear another winter, but she then took another look at the wrong side of its material and that's when she decided that she could turn it inside out. She ripped every seam and sewed it over; the result was that she had a coat that looked good for another five years.

In 1935 Josephine was very ill and she continued to be in poor health until her passing in August 1943. She is buried in the Scandia Cemetery.

Our school was Thordenskjold and when it closed in 1941, Bruce and Arthur went to Armena school. We attended Scandia Church and took part in its activities, including Sunday School, Junior Choir and Luther League. One time when the Sunday School was practising for the big Christmas Concert, we had been standing for sometime as we were getting arranged for singing when Art suddenly fainted. Then we hurried to get our horse and cutter ready to go home. Art broke out with the chicken pox the next day!

Florence was married to Klemmet Lyseng on June 25, 1940. Their story is included in the Carl Lyseng history. Irene was married to James Moore on December 23, 1943. Their story will be found in the Moore history.

Ed and the boys lived on the farm until 1945 when it was sold to M. Rudd. Ed bought and sold several other farms before moving to Camrose. Bruce and Art worked at various jobs, mainly for farmers in the Armena area. Bruce joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1953 and served for five years. He married Karen Pfeil on September 30, 1967. At present they live in

Calgary with their three children: Leigha, Lori and Terrence.

Art married Fern Borden on October 25, 1952 and at present they live in Bently, Alberta. They have three children: Howard (who's married with two children). Art and Fern's other children are Rodney born in 1955 and Verna Gail 1958. Ed made his home with Art and Fern until his passing in October 1967.

George Emil Hendrickson

by Magda

George Emil Hendrickson was born in Clinton, Minnesota, on February 23, 1892. He came with his family Gunner and Mathea Hendrickson, to Canada in 1901, and was confirmed in the Scandia Free Church. He went to the Thordenskjold School, spent one year at the John Russell School in Camrose and another at Augsburg College. Then he was one of the first students when C.L.C. opened in the Heather Brae Hotel, and later at what is now "Old Main". He and some others took part in many a prank besides studying and playing basketball. He graduated from the Academic and Commercial courses. George became a grain buyer in various places in Alberta. In 1917 he joined the army and trained at Camp Sarcee in Calgary. There he found favor with Major Gibson who hired him as his chauffeur. When the war ended George was a grain buyer again. He became interested in a girl in Bardo and made frequent trips there in his Ford, with his brown bird dog draped over the fender and headlight. Whenever the neighbors saw this they said, "Oh, Magda has company again." Once on his way back to Donalda, where he was buying grain, he fell asleep and missed the road at the correction line seven miles east of Camrose. He turned back, fell asleep and missed it again! Finally he got out and walked until he came to the right road south.

George married Magda Anderson in 1922 and they moved to Armena. Magda was the grand-daughter of the Missionary Pastor Bersvend Anderson, and the daughter of his son Peter B. Anderson who helped found the pioneer colony of Bardo in 1894. Magda was born there December 3, 1899.

Magda says, "When hail ruined our wheat field George got work at the Armena elevator and I taught the Thordenskjold School. I'll never forget those eager and friendly pupils. We studied, played, sang. Many of them have made their mark in the world. One day it was so cold that we moved into the furnace room to study. I drove the lively horse, Charlie, and one day he got loose and ran home. I had to walk. Another vivid memory in threshing time, with Gertie Lomnes helping for two weeks. Besides cooking for seventeen men we milked the cows, fed calves and

chickens. Breakfast was early so we would be up at four o'clock. I remember baking thirty-four loaves of bread before breakfast one day. And Gertie wowed the men with a different kind of pie every day! Dinners were taken to brother Ed's north quarter when they threshed his grain too."



George Hendrickson family. Gordon, Doris, Mary, James, George, Joyce, Magda.

Two of George and Magda's five children were born at Armena, Gordon and Doris. The family enjoyed living there. Magda writes, "Armena was a musical, progressive community and we enjoyed the fellowship and special meetings there. Once a speaker from a Bible School in the States was there for a week and on Sunday morning we were preparing for the last inspiring service. But I couldn't find Gordon's only good outfit made over from an old coat of mine, and I had pressed it Saturday night. Finally I ran upstairs, knelt and prayed that God would help me find it. Instantly I thought of the cellar. My ironing board had been near the trap door. I tore downstairs — and sure enough there lay the suit in the dust! I was jubilant and began to hope that we could attend the six-week course given during the winter at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis.

"The Hendrickson Grandparents offered to take care of Gordon so we did go! We enjoyed the Bible Studies and also visited Carrie (Hendrickson) and Enoch Scotvold and others. We came home refreshed. That summer we had our first Family Trip — drove to Saskatoon to attend our first Church Convention. George was a delegate, and I enjoyed meeting many leaders in the Women's Missionary Federation. We had put up our tent and camp. Little Gordon thought it was lots of fun. (Maybe Doris did too, though she was safely tucked away beneath my maternity dress!)"

"Doris was born one week after the threshers left in October. Christine, our Norwegian hired girl was giving Dr. Nordby a cup of coffee before he left and

she said, (in Norsk) 'It went fast' — 'Yah' he answered also in Norsk, 'Everything goes fast in Canada. Babies and everything.' Meanwhile Gordon was having a whale of a time learning to ride the Shetland pony his Uncle Ed had given him."

It was at Armena that Magda got her first taste of W.M.F. (L.C.W.) work. She was elected president of the Camrose Circuit at a 'Kreds' meeting at the Knut Lyseng home and she was so scared she went home and cried! Her Mother Mrs. Anderson, had been the first president so she gave her some advice. Mrs. Brun, Canada District President, sent both encouragement and information, so Magda finally picked up enough courage to visit several Ladies' Aids.

"The Hendrickson household was big and busy," says Magda. "I had much to learn because I had been teaching for several years. Mother Hendrickson was so good to me. She was an excellent midwife and brought me through a difficult delivery safely, when Gordon was born and showed me how to care for him. Whenever we had to be away the Grandparents and sister Ella were our babysitters. Grandpa's favorite way of amusing Gordon was to cross his knees and give him a bouncing ride on his foot, in time to a merry Norwegian song before bucking him off. Our little son squealed in delight."

After living in Armena until 1927, George and Magda, Gordon and Doris moved to a farm at Bardo, George still buying grain and Magda teaching at the local school. They lived there for thirty years. Their descendants number five children, eleven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. The two grandfathers, P. B. Anderson and G. O. Hendrickson, were among the founders of Camrose Lutheran College. Since both Magda and George were alumni it was natural that their children and some of their grandchildren graduated from C.L.C. All of their children also received university degrees from institutions in Canada and the U.S.A.

Magda's interest in music, church and community affairs, coupled with work on their farm, teaching school and W.M.F. work kept her very busy. She travelled across Canada for twenty years organizing the W.M.F., first as Circuit President and finally as Canada District President. She also organized the W.C.T.U. in Bardo and other places including Armena. One fall she studied at C.L.B.I. for a short time and four of her children attended C.L.B.I. too. George and Magda moved from Bardo to Camrose in 1958, and she continued teaching until ill health forced her to retire. She is the author of several books and is still working on some others which she hopes to complete some day. After George's death in 1971 she sold the house and moved into an apartment,

where she lived for ten years before health problems led her to Bethany Sunset Home.

George and Magda's five children were Gordon, Doris, James, Mary and Joyce. Brief histories of them will follow. Gordon was born in Armena in 1923. Schools he attended were Bardo, C.L.B.I., Camrose College, and Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon. After Seminary he married Miss Grace Rawling and entered the ministry serving various congregations in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and is now Pastor at Starbuck, Manitoba. In the first year of their service Grace was driving the old Ford while Gordon was reviewing his sermon. The road was slippery and they landed in the ditch. "We were worried about damage to the car," he said. When Jim heard about it he said, "Shucks! If Grace was driving it would be too slow to be very serious!" Gordon has been tour leader for two trips to the Holy Land. Both Grace and Gordon are Marriage Counsellors. There are four children: Ron, Trudy, Becki and Loren. All are married except Loren who is in High School.

"Doris, born in Armena in 1927, celebrated her first birthday in Bardo with an earache!", says Magda. "She hated to go to bed at night, and I would always check on her. One night I could not find her, and ransacked the house. No Doris. I was preparing dough for bread and when I went into the bedroom to get the small quilt I wrapped the bread in to keep it warm at night — there was Doris sound asleep on it in the lower drawer of the clothes closet! She had long dark curly hair and I loved to comb and curl it around my finger. She didn't! The time she was six she exploded 'I sure wish I was bald-headed like the Rawleigh Man!' I cut her hair. While still quite young she and a chum in Bardo drove to Armena with a team and wagon and hauled a cow home. Later she helped haul many racks of hay from Armena to Bardo. After graduating from C.L.C. Doris went to the States and received a degree from Concordia College in Minnesota. Then she worked as a Home Economist for several years before coming home. She began teaching Home Economics in Kingman and at Christmas 1953 she married Philip Anderson, son of Carl and Celia Anderson who farmed east of Armena. They stayed in Kingman for a few months before moving to Philip's home, where they lived for many years and raised a family of three, Duke, who is married to Lynne Erickson, of Bawlf, Wanda and David. More of this history is found under the Carl Anderson family.

"James carried on the family tradition of graduating from C.L.C., and also earned degrees at the Universities of Alberta and Oregon. He married Sonja Gotaas and is a professor at the University of Victoria. They have four children, Joy, David, Mark

and Mary, all at school, and are a busy happy family the church and other activities. One summer job Jim enjoyed between university sessions was working in the Armena oilfield and singing in the 'Oilers Quartette' with three other boys — Harold Snipstad, Edwin Grue and Olaf Mjelve. He also sang in the Scandia Choir.

"Mary became a Professor of Sociology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, having received her Doctorate from the University in Columbus, Ohio. Mary died very suddenly in 1969 at the age of 35. God comforted her family with the hope of a glad reunion some day.

"Joyce, the youngest, educated at Bardo, C.L.C. and the Universities in Edmonton and Oregon, has been a teacher and counsellor in Edmonton Schools for many years. She took a year of leave in 1973 and made an extensive trip around the world, visiting many countries and also many friends, relatives and missionaries. In 1980 Joyce married Willi Lingle, and now teaches English as a second language to foreign children."

Helmer R. Hendrickson and Gunhild Moen

Helmer Richard Hendrickson, born January 1902, was the first Canadian born member of the Lyseng relations. He attended school at Thordenskjold and C.L.C. in Camrose. He worked in a jewelry store for Mr. Corck in Wainwright. Later, after he married Gunhild Moen of Bardo in 1925, they had a jewelry shop of their own in Holden. In 1928 they came back to the Armena District settling on a farm where their four children were born. In 1937 Helmer developed rheumatic fever so had to leave the farm and the cold Alberta winters. In 1942 they moved to Delta, B.C. where he and his four children live. Gunhild was killed in an accident in 1979. Helmer is now retired after spending many years as a finishing carpenter and an ardent hunter. Their four children are Miriam, Betty, Chester and Donald.

Miriam, born at Holden in 1926, is a real estate agent. She is married to Ole Vested, who is a boat-builder and fisherman. They have five children, Marvin, Clifford, Everald, Howard and James.

Betty born in 1930 is also a real estate agent, who married Cecil (Nick) Nixon, who is a bridge constructor. They have four children David, Cynthia, Judith and Valerie.

In 1934 Chester was born. He married Kathryn Baharrel. He is a foreman of "Pacific Vanier" at Delta, B.C. Kathryn owns a drapery shop. They have five children, Wayne, Glenn, Daniel, Susan and Karen.

Donald, born in 1936, married Evon Brooks. He



Helmer Hendrickson by the old log house.

is a cattle breeder and dairyman in the Delta district. They have four children, Dale, Angela, Gayleen and Rosalie.

The Hendrick (Henry) Hendrickson Family

by Thea Young and Martin

Henry Hendrickson was born in Drangedal, Norway, on January 28, 1861, and with his family, at age 10 he immigrated to U.S.A. In 1888 he married Mathea Lyseng, whose parents Knut and Marit Lyseng had crossed the Atlantic in a sailing vessel in 1868, prior to Mathea's birth. In the spring of 1902 our parents moved to the North West Territories, to what is now the Armena district in Alberta. The area was NW¼-9-48-21-W4, which Henry had procured the previous year. Wetaskiwin was the nearest town and rail center. Mathea with her seven children travelled in a private railroad car with her three brothers Albert, Erik and Knut and their families, while Henry rode the freight and with a helper tended the livestock. In North Dakota, close to the Canadian border two men entered his car with revolvers, demanding his money and valuables. He was slugged unconscious and gagged and bound. When he revived, his helper who was tending the animals in another car, came for supper and untied him. The alarm was sounded but the robbers were gone. This was a set-back as our parents had sold their home in



Henry Hendrickson house built in 1902. It still stands on the same rock foundation. Picture taken in 1919.

South Dakota for cash. However, they were all very thankful that Henry's life was spared, although he had bruises for some time. By means of hard work and help from others they got a house built that summer. It still stands on its rock foundation as a monument to the toil and sacrifice of our parents.

The largest room in the house was the parlor, in which an organ (brought from the States) a wood burning heater, and a few pieces of furniture, some hand-made, reposed. Of great importance was the spinning wheel which provided yarn for mittens, caps, stockings etc. All clothing was home made. In later years Mother got John Nelson's hand made loom on which she wove blankets and rugs. This too was set up in the parlor.



Henry Hendrickson family. Back Row: Inga, Oscar, Olianna, George, Marie, Carl, Emma, Martin, Thea, Jorgine. Front Row: Elmer, Mr. Hendrickson, Lawrence, Mrs. Hendrickson, Raymond.

This parlor served many other purposes. It was for guests, most important of which was the Pastor who sometimes used it as a meeting house. Oscar, Emma and Thea were married in this room. When there was a childbirth, it became a maternity ward. The six youngest children were born here. Our brother Raymond was born there June 2, 1911 and died in the same room September 27, 1933 of tuberculosis. Visitors were always welcome — no one was ever turned away hungry.

Carl Hendrickson and Florence Hicks (2) Edith Mahoney by Thea Young

Carl, born October 25, 1893 devoted his whole life to the teaching profession with a short time off during World War I, when he served with the United States Marine Corps. He took his Normal training in Camrose, taught at Ellswick School in 1915 and at several other Alberta schools. He furthered his education at the Universities in Minnesota, California and elsewhere. He served in Los Angeles Schools for many years as well as taking several world tours.

Carl and his first wife Florence Hicks, had one daughter Eloise who married Raymond O'Hearn of

Los Angeles. Eloise and Ray had three children Eloise Tingstrom, Dennis and Robert. This family lives in Carlsbad, California. Carl later married Edith Mahoney and they live in retirement in Laguna Hills, California.

Oscar Hendrickson and Martha Norenburg by Doris Hendrickson

Oscar Hendrickson born in 1891, second child of Mathea and Henry Hendrickson, was born in Grenville, South Dakota and immigrated with his parents to Canada in the spring of 1902. He attended Thordenskjold School. As a young man he obtained a farm west of the home place, N $\frac{1}{2}$ -8-48-21-W4, and lived there until his death in 1958. In 1930 he married Martha Norenburg of Wetaskiwin, who had emigrated from Poland in 1927. Oscar and Martha were industrious, hard working people and built up their farmstead, built a beautiful home and landscaped their yard into a lovely park. They had three children, Doris, Orris and Carol.

Doris was educated at Thordenskjold and Armena Schools and at C.L.C. She became a secretary and worked at the University Hospital in Edmonton and in Saskatoon and is presently Administrative

Secretary at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose. Doris and her mother have made several trips to visit relatives in Europe in the last few years.

Orris attended school at Thordenskjold and Armena. At the time of his father's death he took over the farm. He married Helen Holte, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Holte, and they have two children: Darrell and Valaine.

Carol became a legal secretary. She married a teacher, Dennis Bjornson of Tofield. Dennis taught in several schools in Alberta and presently has a position in the office of the Department of Education in Edmonton. They have two children: Curtis and Darla.

Orris built a small house for his mother in the same yard and she keeps busy with many hobbies — quilting, sewing, gardening — even to laying cement sidewalks! She also takes part in L.C.W., Willing Workers and other community, and church activities.

This is also the end of portion written by Doris.

We have happy memories of gatherings of friends and relatives. Our parents sacrificed much to give us a good living and a christian education. Dad died June 24, 1937 and Mother November 12, 1951. There were thirteen children. A brief history of each is given below.

The eldest, Jorgine, born January 21, 1890, got her teacher's certificate in 1909 and taught at Thordenskjold, was the first teacher at Swan Hill School and taught other schools in Alberta including Farmington at Kingman. While there, on November 24, 1918, she succumbed to the Spanish Influenza, which raged that year.

Martin Hendrickson and Marie Klukken (2) Margaret Hendrickson (3) Hattie Vikse written by Thea Young

On April 18, 1895 Martin Henry was born to Henry and Mathea. He lived south of his folks on NW¼-4-48-21-W4, and was a veteran of World War 1. He farmed there for many years, and in 1936 married Marie Klukken who died a year later when a son, who also died, was born. Several years later he married Margaret Skaret, a widow with three children, Herbert, Arlene Person and Rodney who now lives on Martin's home place. Martin and Margaret celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They retired to Camrose and several years later Margaret passed away, after a lingering illness. In 1974 Martin married Hattie Vikse and they had seven happy years before she passed away in 1981.

Marie, the fifth child, born August 12, 1896 became a teacher. She spent several years teaching Sunday School and Parochial School. Later she was nursing at a Lutheran Nursing Home in Washington,

was taken ill and passed away shortly afterwards at the age of 30 years on January 16, 1927.

George Edwin and Alma Hendrickson

George was born in South Dakota in 1898. He moved with his family Hendrick and Mathea (Lyseng) Hendrickson, to the Bittern Lake area in 1902 where they homesteaded. They were a large family of thirteen children.

In 1939 George was married to Alma Hagge, who was born and lived in North Dakota until her marriage. In 1940 their daughter Grace was born, and in 1945 they had a son David. The family was active in the Scandia Lutheran Church at Armena, where the children were baptised, confirmed and were active in Luther League.

Grace was married to Brian Davidson in 1960. They have a daughter Lynn, born in 1961 and a son Bruce, born in 1962. They make their home in Edmonton.

David married Sharon McNichol in 1967. They have three children, Fay born in 1969, Joy born in 1971 and Glen born in 1972. Their home is in Red Deer, Alberta.



George Hendrickson's 40th Anniversary, June, 1979. Back: Sharon, David, Lyn, Brian, David and Grace. Front: Glen, George, Fay, Alma, Joy.

George farmed until a few years ago when he retired, but continued to live on their farm. In 1940 they built a new home. At that time they were one of very few families in the country who had indoor plumbing and their own power plant. It was several years later the Calgary Power came to the area.

George was telephone "lineman" for several years. He also had his own lathe on which he has made many lefse rolling pins, as well as many needed parts for machinery.

Other areas of great interest to George were hunt-

ing, fishing and auction sales. Whether big game or duck hunting, fishing or ice fishing, he was always ready to go.

He also had his own smoke house, made from part of an aeroplane. When hunting or fishing time came around, Alma was already to take on the responsibility of doing the chores and keeping the home fires burning. To this day, she is the one to leave her own work to help a neighbor. Their home was a very hospitable one. George and Alma celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 1979.

Elmer Albert Hendrickson

written by Elmer

Elmer was born November 30, 1909 to Henry and Mathea (Lyseng) Hendrickson. He was "reared on the Hendrickson farm, 16 miles northwest of Camrose, the first 18 years of my life. From 1924 to 1927 I attended Camrose High School. I then left for Minneapolis to attend Augsburg College; returning for visits at frequent intervals. One time I returned in a model T Ford, driving the graveled Calgary-Edmonton highway. Of course on that dusty trip I stopped to wash off the dust before showing myself at the Hendrickson farm.

I have travelled widely. My Bachelor's degree was received from Augsburg College and my Master's degree from the University of Southern California. I spent many years in the teaching profession. During the 70's I became blind and was forced to take early retirement. However my wife Marie (Volkner) Hendrickson is still teaching. We have two daughters, Ruth Anne, who married Jamie Henderson, and is teaching at a Lutheran School in North Hollywood and working on her reading specialist credentials, and Linda, who is a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara, working on degrees in piano and Nuclear Engineering."

Lawrence Hendrickson and Olga Lede

by Thea Young

The youngest of Mathea and Henry's children is Lawrence, born September 9, 1913. He was educated at Thordenskjold School and C.L.C. He remained on the home farm for some time and married Olga Lede of the New Norway district. Then for awhile Lawrence was a salesman for Crawford and Co. in Camrose. He purchased a farm north of Camrose and still owns it returning spring and fall to seed and to harvest his crop. He and Olga moved to Rutland B.C. several years ago. They returned to Camrose to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in January, 1982.

Lawrence and Olga have a family of five children: Douglas, Ronald, Shirley, Jerry and Eleanor.

Douglas farms his father's home place and is unmarried. Ron married Anna Joan Moseson and they have two children and live in Calgary. Shirley married Beverly Torgerson, and they have three children, Paul, Andrew and Lisa. Bev Torgerson is a pipe fitter and they live in Leduc. Jerry studied for the ministry but is presently in a secular occupation. He married Jane and they have a son born in 1981, and live in Calgary. Eleanor is presently attending L.C.B.I. in Outlook, Saskatchewan.

Martin adds: We all attended Thordenskjold School at some time, and it has been interesting to watch the development of the district through the years.

Thea adds: Our parents sacrificed much to give us the education which they had not received. We will always be thankful for their efforts and for the Christian home they provided for their family.

Jack Herron Story

written by Cecelia Olson

John (Jack) Herron was born on January 28, 1892, in Minnesota, U.S.A. His wife, Ellen Widerstrand, was born in Lancaster, Minnesota in September, 1895. For many years, they farmed at Humboldt, Minnesota, and on October 31, 1929, moved with all their settler's effects. It is interesting to note that they shipped their belongings in two railroad cars and it was all unloaded at the Stegund Siding, four miles north of Camrose. They brought along an Overland Willis car besides their horses, cattle, machinery, and furniture.

Jack Herron rented the farm owned by Sven Johnson from October, 1929, until April, 1931. This farm, located on the S ½ of Section 9-48-20 W4, was later



Left to Right: Mrs. Theo Carlson, Mrs. Jack Herron, Mr. Jack Herron.

owned by the Theodore Carlsons. Vertus Herron, as a very young boy, remembers very well that Sam Johnson came to visit them occasionally while they lived there.

On one such visit, Mr. Johnson had misplaced his gloves and accused young Vertus of having lost them. To Vertus's great relief, the lost gloves were eventually found neatly tucked inside Mr. Johnson's cap. Vertus went to school at the Lyseng School during the time that Inez thronrdson and Irene Horte were teachers.

In April, 1931, the family rented a farm south-west of Kingman, Alberta. Another son, Victor, was born on October 8, 1939. The Oscar Bard farm was rented from the spring of 1943 until 1946. The previous harvest of 1942 had not been threshed, so that had to be done before they could work the land. In 1946, Jack Herron purchased a farm in the Lake Demay district and lived there until they moved to reside in Camrose.

John (Jack) Herron passed away in Camrose on February 24, 1962, at the age of sixty-nine years. His wife, Ellen, passed away at the Nursing Home in Wetaskiwin where she had resided the last few years. She died on February 25, 1972, at the age of seventy-three years. They are both buried in the Camrose Cemetery.

Vertus, born in October, 1923 at Humboldt, Minnesota, U.S.A. came to Alberta with his parents in 1929. He was married to Marion Johanson in 1947. In 1948, Vertus and Marion Herron went to live in Kelsey, Alberta, where he worked on the railroad for six years. He vividly remembers the wages paid at that time. Some men in the same line of work earned from thirty-five to forty-five cents an hour, however he felt very lucky to earn the "big" wages of ninety-

two cents per hour. In 1954, they moved to Wetaskiwin where he worked as a butcher for ten and one-half years. His wages started at thirty dollars a week and later rose to sixty-nine dollars a week. For the past seventeen years he has been employed as caretaker at the Wetaskiwin Centre, a position he still holds. Marion Herron works at the Group Home. They have a family of three children and eight grandchildren. Vertus and Marion have bought a lovely acreage north of Wetaskiwin.

Victor, born October 8, 1939 at Kingman, Alberta, married Norma Mancell. They have four children and live west of Leduc, Alberta. He works in the oil field where he began as a field supervisor and now is employed as a field and shop mechanic.

Louisa and Wilson Herron by Mrs. Ken Mingo

Louise and Wilson Herron arrived in Camrose in 1923. They with three of their children Verna, Olive and Bradin, and two neighbors trekked from Bassano up through central Alberta to Camrose during late October. They drove covered wagons and Bradin (the son) and one of the neighbors herded the cattle and the horses. They really enjoyed part of the trip as they had good weather but they had a couple of scary incidents as well. They also shipped a railway boxcar loaded with machinery and household effects. The Herrons settled on a farm three and a half miles north of town, NE ¼-22-47-20 which Wilson Herron had scouted out and bought the previous summer. Here the Herrons farmed for eight years. The three children went through high school in Camrose. Vera the eldest daughter arrived the following summer and taught for two years in Swea school district. After finishing school Verna worked in McDonalds Con-



Jack Herron family. Vertus, Ellen, Victor, sister Nelly, and Jack.



Left to Right: Braden, Vera, Mrs. Herron, Mr. Herron, Olive, Verna.

solidated Warehouse until she married Laurie Byers of the Byers Flour Mills. They raised two children Laurine Mingo and Walter Byers who still live in Camrose and are raising families there. Olive worked for Kerr and McDonalds General Store and is now in California. She married Edwin Knudvig Kaye. Bradin and Bert Bowes (Vera's husband) operated a garage and farmed in Fort St. John British Columbia for forty three years. They now live in Victoria, British Columbia.

Edwin and Olianna (Hendrickson) Hong

On October 21, 1900 Olianna was born. She taught school for several years at Sulitjelma and others, and during the 30's married her cousin Edwin Hong. (See Lars Hong story for Edwin's history.) To them twin girls were born in 1935, June Rachel, who married Tom Sawtell, have two daughters Dallas and Tanis, and live in Prince George, B.C. The other twin Joan May married Gordon Albee, has a son Derrick, and lives in Bellingham, Washington. Edwin died some years ago when they lived in retirement in Summerland, B.C. Olianna still lives there.

Henry Jasman Story

by Oscar Jasman

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jasman, our father and mother, living at Pratum, Oregon became aware of homesteads to be had in Canada. According to a paper of our father's, dated October 1, 1900, he received possession of a quarter of land about twenty five miles east and a little north of Wetaskiwin. The description is 24-47-21 W4. So in April 1901, father and mother with us three younger brothers Rudolph, Arthur and Oscar plus our four older brothers, Henry Jr., William, Walter, and Herbert, came to Wetaskiwin by train. With some machinery and four horses, we pulled across land and Stoney Creek which we had to ford and onto our homestead.

The first thing the men did was to build a board shanty which had a door to the south but no windows. Shiplap bought in Wetaskiwin was used for this and it rained a lot that first summer and mother said she sometimes had to put a large pan at least on one of the beds to catch the rain dripping through. The next job the men started on was to cut down quite large poplar trees and built a log house onto the shanty. This took most of that summer as the house was built almost square with a large kitchen and large living room to the south with windows; and two large bedrooms with a pantry between them. A small cellar had been dug under the house. The ceilings were thin poplars poles with thick finishing paper tacked un-



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jasman, photo taken in early 1930's. Note the log house, built in 1901, chinked with clay.

derneath them. The floors were just thick boards. The walls of the house were chinked with clay inside and outside. All the walls inside were painted white with diluted lime; the outside walls were left a clay color. We got into the house for winter.

William Jasman, one of our elder brothers had also taken a quarter section and it was cornerwise to our homestead to the northwest, however without any buildings being built here. My mother's brother Carl Winkelman and his wife also took up a quarter section adjoining ours to the north and started farming.

Our father also bought the quarter of land adjoining our homestead to the east which was C.P.R. land for \$1.00 per acre, so there was a lot of land to break up in the next 15-20 years. A few years after we arrived here, my sister Gertrude was born and two years later another brother of ours was born, Edward was the name given to him.

Pioneering in those early years was rather trying and really tough going, actually you might say there was very little money to be made or that we had. Our father and mother had to barter with eggs, butter and other produce to get some essential good from the stores even after Camrose came into being in 1905. As it was we lived mostly off the land as can be imagined. During those first years too, we had heavy

snow falls and some winters were real cold, so much so that our three older brothers left after the first year and went back to the United States. The other older brother died in an accident about the second summer.

After farming about six or seven years my Uncle Carl Winkelman and his wife Emma with their three little girls sold their farm, horses, machinery and all their goods and also returned to the United States. It would appear that the cold winters with so much snow plus breaking up of the land with horses and the poor return of money for your farming like hauling oats to Wetaskiwin for twelve cents a bushel and other produce which was not too much better, discouraged some settlers. As I look back now after 80 years here even though it was truly kind of tough going we never the less have been blessed and taken care of by God himself, to Him be all the glory.

Our farm now belongs to Ralph Hilgartner and family as they bought the two quarters of land a number of years ago and have made some improvements on the farm which is good.

The Svend Jensen Family

by Ella Jensen

It was a beautiful summer day when we arrived in Armena with our three small children, Ruth, Philip and Phyllis. Svend worked for Alberta Wheat Pool and was transferred from a dust bowl area in southern Alberta. It was a welcome change to live where dust storms were not a common occurrence.

Our first home in Armena was a small two-room house, directly north of the parsonage where Reverend and Mrs. Raymond Olson and family resided. We enjoyed the fellowship with the Olsons, the residents of the small hamlet and the people from Scandia church. Everyone was most kind and hospitable.

Our second home was in a new house built by Alberta Wheat Pool. What a pleasure to move into a dwelling with adequate space for our growing family.

Ruth Ramstad, teacher at the Armena school, lived with us after we moved into the new house. Evert Grue was a frequent visitor. Ruth later became Mrs. Evert Grue.

We were worried when it was time to leave this cozy little hamlet and move to Edmonton. In the Edmonton area Svend spent some time as a Watkins dealer before he became a Real Estate salesman.

Svend is now retired. I worked as a school secretary for the Edmonton Public School Board, a position I have held for many years.

Ruth, our oldest daughter, married Harvey Vikse, an industrious farmer from Donalda. They have three children: Miriam, David and Stephen.

Ruth is a serious writer. She studied at the Banff School of Fine Arts and the Christian Writer's In-

stitute, Wheaton College, Chicago. Ruth was writer of the year for The Shepherd L.C.W. column, a Lutheran Church periodical. She also works at the Camrose One-World Centre and is the church's coordinator for east-central Alberta region and overseas director.

Philip attended the University of Western Ontario where he met his wife, Faith. He also attended the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia. Both Philip and Faith are teachers at Prince George, B.C.

Phyllis graduated from the Royal Alexandra School of Nursing in Edmonton. She spent nine years in nursing, three of them in England before returning to studies at the University of Western Ontario and University of Toronto. Phyllis is working on her Ph.D. degree and does research for the Royal Commission travelling from coast to coast throughout Canada.

Our youngest son, Tim, was born after we left Armena. He attended Concordia College, Edmonton, and is a graduate at N.A.I.T. Tim is a computer programmer and the company he works for sent him to Vancouver, San Francisco and Los Angeles to learn about the latest development in computers. He presently lives in Edmonton.

We have fond memories of our few years in Armena and occasionally drive through this small hamlet on our way to visit Harvey, Ruth and family in Donalda.

Andrew Johnson Family

Andrew Johnson was born near Bergen, Norway in 1846, the son of a blacksmith. There were three boys and one girl. The family farm was called Opsal. The custom was that the people in Norway went by the name of the farm while living there. The entire family immigrated to America in 1858 when Andrew was twelve years old.

They hadn't been here many years when civil war broke out. This was a war to free the slaves. Andrew enlisted with the Union Army or the Northern States, against the Confederate Army — the Southern States who wanted to keep the slaves. The food in the army was not too plentiful. One thing didn't help, he was not used to beans. These had sprouted and what he thought to be worms was likely just the white sprouts. He just couldn't eat much of that. The rest of the meal was coarse bread.

The only time he stole anything was one time when nearly starving, he took a sweet potato and ate it raw.

He was with a small group of Cavalry on patrol duty when they were confronted by a larger group of

Confederate Cavalry. His commanding officer told them,

"If you want to save yourselves, listen to me." Like a flash, a voice seemed to speak to Andrew, "Are you ready?" He had to answer, "No."

There was no more time to think as the fighting began. Andrew had his horse shot from under him. The skirmish was soon over and the Confederates were routed. The only loss for the Unionists was the one horse. Another horse was obtained from a farmer working nearby.

This was the only action he saw before the war ended with the surrender of the last Confederate in May, 1865. Later on, he acquired land in Iowa and built a house on it, even equipping it with lightning rods. Due to the trickery of a crooked company who claimed ownership, several settlers, including Andrew, lost their land.

Later he settled on land about two miles east of

the site which was the beginning of Mobridge, South Dakota.

Brita Vevle was born in Norway in 1853, the third in the family of seven girls and two boys. She was born near Bergen too, but their farm was on an island on the other side of Bergen. The farm was called Vevle.

Farming in South Dakota was one of frustration and disappointment. The rain seemed to follow the river, missing the farms further away. Year after year there were poor crops. One year was not much better than the others.

It was a sultry Sunday afternoon. The neighbours were gathered at the school house for Divine Worship. The sky was growing darker so the pastor closed the service early and advised the people to hurry home.

They were pursued by the storm. Lightning was striking down frightfully close. Just as they arrived home the storm struck in all its fury. The team was



Andrew Johnson family. Anna, Martha, Olivia, Josephine, Brita, Julia, Andrew John.

unhitched and driven into the barn. The pounding hail frightened the horses so much it was difficult to get them into their stalls. In a few minutes the storm was over and the crop was a total loss. The field resembled one newly plowed.

What were living conditions like in these trying times? Of course luxuries were non-existent. Clothes were coarse and homemade. There was knitting, spinning and weaving. Most of the furniture was homemade.

The children were carefree and happy, not knowing better things. They had their parents, enough to eat, a roof over their heads and a place to sleep. In their bare feet they would wander over the prairies, excited and expectant over the discoveries they would make. They had to watch out for rattle snakes. It was always interesting to count the rattles to learn the age of the snake.

They were all cautioned to be careful.

"Look out Martha, now you are stepping on one!" There at her feet about her ankles, was a snake. Martha almost passed out. The rest told her afterwards that she just stood there and stomped. It so happened that this was not a poisonous snake!

At times a rattle snake would find its way into the houses which were made of sod or logs. One time this happened after dark. Close examination failed to find the culprit. A few days later a rattler was found curled up on a ledge in the dug out portion of the house. Another time a rattle was heard, this time a mouse had been carrying a rattle saved as a souvenir.

Use your imagination and let's walk with the Johnson children on an early spring day. Suddenly you come upon a writhing mass of snakes sunning themselves, a multitude of swaying heads with dark beady eyes, and protruding tongues, hissing a warning for the trespasser to beware. Talk about a repulsive sight!

There were surprisingly few deaths from snake bites. One child died after sticking his finger into what he thought was a mouse hole. The resulting bite caused death which proved to be snake poisoning.

The school year was very short; two months, spring and fall, later extended to three months. The winters were too severe for the clothing the children had.

In these days of plenty, we don't really appreciate our blessings and we take so much for granted. One Christmas was remembered by the Johnson children because the only extra treat that year was a five pound pail of syrup shared by the whole family. This they enjoyed to the last drop.

The spring of 1901 was so dry the first grain died after it came up. A second planting failed to sprout.

Conditions were desperate for livestock feed. It was decided to sell out and move to Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson and family of six girls, Julia, Martha, Oliva, Josephine, Anna and Bertha and one son John, together with a neighbour family, Jacob and Caspara Danielson and an adopted son Hercules Butchard, started out on the long journey. This was the middle of June, 1901. They travelled by covered wagons, taking their household effects, machinery and cattle.

At night they slept in tents. On approaching the border, the road they took brought them on the wrong side of the lake. Portal, the point of entry was on the other side, twenty miles away.

To obtain their passports it was necessary for the men to take the buggy and drive around the lake. The rest of them camped for the day. That night a terrific storm came up. The Johnson tent went down and they had to take refuge in the Danielson's tent which was still standing but threatening to go down any minute. It was at this time that Josephine was missed. Mother had to go out to find her. In the pitch blackness nothing could be seen except when the lightning flashed. Dark forms were seen but these were just quilts and supplies blown by the wind. Josephine was found later in the tent, sitting quietly, but mother was soaked to the skin.

There were funny incidents along the way too. One morning Mrs. Danielson was heard calling, "Hercules, Hercules, wake up!"

The cows had been rubbing close to the tent to dislodge hungry mosquitoes. As usual they left their calling cards! Hercules, close to the tent edge had pushed the tent wall over and was sleeping contentedly with his head in the nice, warm pile. The Johnson children could hardly keep themselves from bursting with laughter!

The train was taken from Portal to Wetaskiwin. Their possessions were loaded on immigrant cars. They arrived in Wetaskiwin on July 31, one and a half months after starting out!

The rainy years had begun again in this area. Rain poured down for several days. It became very monotonous sitting in the tent or slopping around in the mud. The rains had started in South Dakota too. The farmers cut the tender new growth of Russian thistle and put this up for hay. Their cattle had something to eat that winter after all.

The kind-hearted storekeeper at Wetaskiwin offered the travellers the use of his farm buildings for the winter and the privilege of putting up hay. These plans were changed when the river could not be crossed because of flooding.

They headed for Beaver Lake, their original destination. When they came to the Armena district,

Thore Grue talked them into squatting on some Hudson's Bay land as there was little danger of it being sold soon. This would give them a chance to build a log cabin and do some haying.

The Johnsons settled on the SE ¼ 21-48-20-W4. Jacob Danielson filed on NE 22-48-20-W4.

There were the trials common to most pioneers, but it wasn't easy for a man over fifty years of age to begin again in a new land, to clear land and prepare the fields; to build a house and barn. The girls were the eldest and so a lot of work fell on their shoulders too.

Mosquitoes were there by the millions, which grew in size with each telling. Here is a story. One day when the mosquitoes were particularly vicious, a man took refuge inside an upside down cast iron kettle. He had a hammer in his hand and said, "I'll fix you". When the stinger came through, he clinched it right there with a few blows of the hammer. All was quiet for a time, then the kettle slowly rose into the air as the mosquito gained altitude and flew away with the kettle. The man survived to tell the story.

They had a small mare called Josie, and she was tricky! She could be impossibly lazy and then all of a sudden take off. The rider was lucky to stay on. Then, just as suddenly she would stop and you'd go over her head. Sometimes when crossing water she would decide to lie down, often on the passenger's leg. You would then be trapped until she was good and ready to get up! Once Martha feared she'd be brushed off when the mare was going straight for the open barn door. Luckily her mother was there and quickly closed the door. This once Josie stopped with a bang, much more quickly than she bargained for!

Andrew Johnson wanted a school and church for his family. He worked for the formation of a school district. In 1905 Thronson school district #925 was formed.

He served on the school board. Among the positions he held was the job of Secretary Treasurer. (He had served on the school board in the U.S. too and also as Commissioner of Oaths and other legal positions.

On January 17th, 1905, Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation was organized. Services were held in Fridhem Church and the schools and homes until a church was built in 1910. Andrew Johnson and his family were charter members.

A serious blow came in 1904 when Bertha, then only five, contracted diphtheria. She was an exceptionally bright child and had started to read and write at three years of age. It was too late to save her when the doctor was called. They knew that the end was

near when the little tyke called to her mother and said, "Were you singing? — I heard singing."

The weather was cold. Preparations were made for a private funeral, since all the neighbours were afraid of the contagious disease. Andrew made a small coffin and placed it on a hand sleigh. The rest of the children tearfully watched through the frosty window pane as Father and Mother proceeded to a small clearing in the woods nearby to bury their little girl.

The girls were soon old enough to go out working. Besides work in private homes, Mother (Martha), was cook at the Bawlf Hospital. She also cooked at the College which was situated in Camrose Heather Brae Building. The building was cold in the winter. Even with banked fires, the cover would freeze on the tea kettle set at the back of the stove.

Anna married Jacob Watland. (See their story under Watland.)

Bertha was born in 1899 and passed away in 1904.

John (1st) was born in February of 1894 and died the same month.

John Andrew Johnson tried farming for awhile, but this did not appeal to him. He broke with tradition and decided to become a carpenter. Melvin Severson recalls that as a little fellow he used to follow John around the farm, bugging him, as he tried to master the figures on the steel square.

John took a correspondence course in carpentry. He built a barn on the home place for Anna, and helped build a big house for O. H. Skogman.

He married Annie Brown and went to Kapuskasing, Ontario by way of Seattle, Washington and Chatham, Ontario, where he began working at building for a pulp mill. He was foreman there until his retirement.

They came back here several times to visit and usually spent their winters in Florida. He passed away in 1976 at eight years. He was predeceased by two sons, Robert, missing in action with the Air Force, and Bruce Roderick. Surviving are his wife Annie, daughters Iris Ann Johnston and Vevle Carter.

Josephine was born in 1892. She was married to Caspar Ostrem. He passed away in 1922 and Bernice in 1924 at three years of age. Josephine sold her boarding house and went to Washington, Idaho, as a barber. She married Harold Rice who passed away in 1955, due to failing health at eighty-eight years of age. She is at present in a convalescent nursing home in Santa Rosa, California. (See more of her story under Ostrem.)

Julia married Olaf Olson. (see Olson story)

Martha married John Thronson (see Thronson)

Oliva married Severt Martin Eidsath. He served as pastor in the Presbyterian Church until retiring.

They had two sons, Norman and Harold. She has passed away.

Ingve Isedor Johnson (Jansson)

Ingve Isedor Johnson (Jansson) was born in Kiruna, Sweden in December, 1900 to Kristina Johnson (Pahlin). On April 14, 1911, Ingve, his mother, brother, and sisters sailed on the ship, the Victorian, for Canada, arriving on April 23, 1911 at Halifax. They came west and bought land, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 4-49-20, from August Moberg. In the twenties, Ingve took a homestead on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 33-48-20, where he lived until his youngest son bought it in 1961. In the fall of 1930, Ingve had an accident with the threshing machine that left his right arm and the right side of his face paralyzed. Because of the accident he had to hire people to help him on the farm. In August of 1932



Shower for Katie Klein.



Ingve Johnson and Katie Klein, 1928.

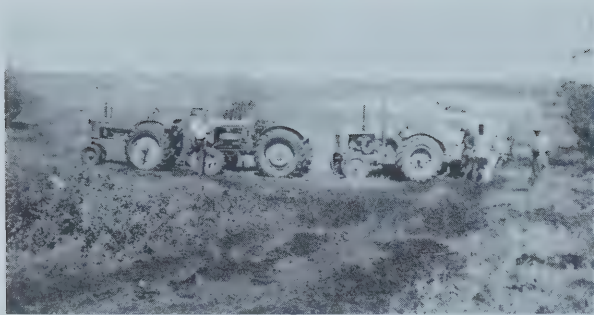
Ingve married Katie Klien, the daughter of John and Anna Klien, who lived on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-48-20. To this union three sons were born. Dennis was born in September 1933 at the Lundemo Post Office, located on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-48-20, with Mrs. Hatfield as the midwife. Harvey was born in February 1935 in Camrose and Floyd in February 1939 in Camrose. In August 1943, Ingve and Katie were divorced, leaving Ingve, Dennis, Harvey and Floyd as bachelors. Kristina, Ingve's mother, cooked and washed clothes for them until she passed away in the spring of 1950.



Harvey, Floyd, and Dennis Johnson, 1940.

Dennis started school at Brandland in 1939, and Harvey in 1941. It was a long cold walk in the winter time, the school being three miles from home on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-49-20. Later they went to Thronson School which was located on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 24-48-20. Mrs. French, the Thronson School teacher, lived on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 24-48-20 and often had it hard to get to school. Dennis finished his grade eight at Thronson School and then stayed home to help his Dad farm. After the school bus began to run Harvey finished his schooling to grade ten at Armena and Floyd finished grade twelve there also.

For a couple of years, Dennis and Harvey were janitors at the school. They would milk the cows on



Asp's truck stuck on Ingve's farm, 1950.

lived with Dennis and his family for eight months before moving into Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose. He still resides there and is doing very well.

The Glen and Judith Johnston Family by Elmer Olson

Judith the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Olson was born May 24, 1908. She was employed in Camrose until her marriage in July 30, 1931 to Glen Johnston of New Norway. They farmed for several years and in 1942 Glen obtained work at Ness's Dairy of Camrose. In 1943 Glen became employed by Byers Flour Mills. He held the position of miller for thirty-three years until his retirement in 1976. Their family:

Philip, manager of Phil's Appliances in Wetaskiwin married Sonja Rogstad. They have a home in Edmonton.

Rodney passed away in 1953 at the age of sixteen years.

Yvonne, a Nursing Aide, is married to Kenneth Pickard of Provost, Alberta where they farm.

Grace, a clinic receptionist, married Fred Nelson of Claresholm, Alberta.

John, an accountant, married Marilyn Schmidt, they live at Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Keith is an emergency medical technician in the Edmonton Ambulance Authority, and a student paramedic in the class of 1983.

Karen is a secretary married to Don Glidden, an engine rebuilder. They live in Camrose.

Judith and Glen have twelve grandchildren.

Magnus Sven Johnson

Sven Johnson left his gardening plot in Edberg district and moved to the Armena district where he

the farm early in the morning then get to school an hour before the rest of the children and make a fire in the stove so it would be warm for them and the teacher. They were kept busy on the weekends during the winter, hauling wood home from the bush. When the pile got big enough for a day's sawing, they would borrow their Uncle Albanus' tractor and saw and with the help of their uncle and a few friends, they would saw all day. Their work resulted in a big pile of wood which kept the house fire going. Every other weekend they would haul a load of wood to the school for which they would receive \$0.50 a load. Harvey and Dennis also received about \$0.50 per day for the janitor work they did.

In September, 1954, Dennis married Alfrieda Majeski, the eldest daughter of William (Bill) and Emily Majeski of Camrose. The Majeskis had bought, from Fred Anderson, a farm at the NE ¼ 8-47-19 by Camrose in 1935. Dennis and Alfrieda now live in the city of Camrose and have five children, Linda, Alan, Karen, Arlene, and Delores. Linda married Lenard Petrowski of Glenella, Manitoba and they reside in Edmonton. Alan married Catherine Beaven of Fort Smith. They have one son, David, and reside in Heisler. Karen married Darby (Dennis) Lewes of Powell River. Arlene works at Grande Prairie as a C.N. Operator and Delores lives at home.

Harvey married Katherine McGilvery of Manning, Alberta in April, 1959. They had one son, Terry. Harvey and Terry make their home in Edmonton.

Floyd married Carol Godfrey of Strathmore, Alberta in 1962. They have two sons, Greg and Dale, and reside in Strathmore.

In 1968, Ingve moved to Creston, British Columbia, where the climate seemed to suit him. After a fall on the ice in January, 1979, he spent three months in the hospital. He had broken his left arm and that left him without any hands to do anything; he couldn't eat, or dress, or tie his shoes for himself. In April, 1979, Dennis brought him to Camrose to stay. He



Sven Johnson's 80th birthday.

purchased from C.P.R., the S ½ 9-48-20 W4. As with other pioneers, Sven cleared his land with an axe. In 1929 he rented his land to Jack Herron and he began breaking the sod with a horse-drawn plow.

Sven moved to the Fridhem parsonage but stayed only a short time. He made an agreement with the church; he would will his land to them in exchange for his care and keep as long as he lived, then for funeral expenses, and for a head stone. He lived with the Carl Anderson family but got the idea he should go to the Bethany Home in Bawlf. One day he packed his earthly belongings in a large red handkerchief, fastened it on a stick, put it on his shoulder and started out. He wasn't happy there however, so he soon showed up at the S. J. Lindberg home. Sven returned to the Carl Anderson home again and spent the last four years of his life there. He was buried on October 23, 1938.

Sven, because he was short of stature, was known as "two by four Johnson" among his neighbors. Stories are he was only four feet two inches tall.

The Jornlin Family

Minech Rudolph Jornlin was a third-generation Scandinavian American who chose to live out his years in Canada, rather than in his native land, the United States.

His grandfather, Tarald Joranlien, a tailor, had sailed to America with his family in an early wave of immigration, from Torpen, Norway, in 1845, the journey taking thirteen weeks in a sailboat. They settled in Rock County, Wisconsin, where Ole Jornlin (b. 1844) grew up and married Helene Rud (b. 1841), a neighbor girl who had arrived from Toten, Norway. They later moved to Lansing, Iowa, where Minech was born in 1874, the sixth child in the family.

Looking for greener pastures, they moved to South Dakota, the first white family to settle in Afton Township north of Brookings. This was at a time when the Indians were harassing the settlers, setting fires to the prairie grass, and sometimes shooting bullets through the windows. However, by showing friendliness and kindness to the Indians, the Jornlins and others not only escaped the massacres that wiped out some of the adjoining pioneer communities but also learned from the Indians the skill of skinning mink and muskrat.

With land becoming increasingly scarce and the family numbering eight sons and two daughters, it became necessary for Minech, as well as his brother Thorvald and his two brothers-in-law and neighbor sons, to trek into Northern Minnesota, beyond Middle River, to file on homesteads there. Not finding



Minech and Sophia Jornlin March 5, 1906.

the land as productive as some hoped, the next venture was to seek land in Canada.

In 1907 Minech Jornlin arrived in the Armena area for the purpose of courting Sophia Thronndson, whom he had known at Brookings. She was also rooted in the pioneer tradition for her father and mother (Thore and Marit Bakken Thronndson) had been born of Norwegian immigrants to Wisconsin and later, homesteaders in Iowa and then at Brookings, South Dakota. It was at Brookings that Sophia had been born (1880), attended State College, and became a teacher for several years before Canada beckoned.

She recalled that from 1901 on she spent many happy hours in their new community, first teaching briefly at Pretty Hill School. With the Grues, Moes, Skarets, Hendricksens, Kringens, Rasmussens, Andersens and others, there was visiting, parties, and helping "bees". For despite the lack of labor saving devices, these early settlers found time to be sociable and mutually co-operative. Often people walked eight or more miles over rough terrain to visit neighbors, to learn some new stitchery or other craft, or to spend the day, and then walk home again. When some family met misfortune, or a death occurred,



Hiding, 1917. Velma, Lester, Ruth, Raymond Jornlin.

assistance was right at hand, a kind neighbor even supplying gratis a hundred-pound bag of flour or a half beef or pork.

Farmers, newly arrived by box-car at Wetaskiwin terminal, continued to cross the district with their stock and implements in search of good farming land beyond the settled areas. Sometimes a traveling evangelist would visit the community, or farmers from the north-east (Bardo and vicinity) would spend the night in the neighborhood before continuing their journey on foot or horse to Wetaskiwin for mail and supplies. Later, the Pretty Hill post office opened in the O. Olson home north of Dinant and the long trek for mail was shortened.

When Minech and Sophia were married (March 1907), he took his bride back to their former neighborhood in South Dakota. There they lived, alternately in Canada, for the next seven years. By 1915 they decided definitely to make their future home in Canada and settled in on the home they had earlier established (Section 19-48-20).



Jornlin Family. Raymond, Sylvia, Lila, Lester, Ruth, Minech, Sophia, Velma.

By this time three children had been born: Lester in 1910, Raymond in 1911, and Velma in 1914. Three more children followed: Ruth in 1916, Sylvia 1919, and Leila in 1921.

The Jornlins farmed for many years in the area, and were members of Skandia Lutheran Church. Minech died at the age of ninety-three and Sophia at the age of ninety.

Lester Jornlin

Although my parents had bought land (from Carl Anderson Sr.) and had established a home in Canada as early as 1908, I was born at Brookings, South Dakota in January, 1910. This was during a brief stay back in the United States. I grew up in Canada and in August, 1939 married Hazel Lyseng (B. April 1912), the second daughter of Carl and Ragna Lyseng of Armena.



Lester Jornlin in U. S. Navy uniform and his wife, Hazel.

We moved to Olympia, Washington in 1940 and I worked at carpentry until World War II. I then served in the United States Navy until the fall of 1945. The last thirty-five years I have been doing house contracting, owning my own business. We are now retired.

Our son Merle was born in February 1950 at Tacoma, Washington and at present owns a motorcycle repair and parts business in Olympia. He is single.

Raymond Jornlin's Story

I am the second son of Minech and Sophia Jornlin, born October 27, 1911 on the home place of S.E. 24-28-20; now owned by the Wilson Family.

Trying to get an education at Thronson School and milking cows formed the pattern of my young years. As I grew older, my interests still centered around farming but something else had been added — baseball!



Jornlin family, 1976. Raymond, Lila, Lester, Ruth, Sylvia, Velma.

How we hurried through our chores so we could take off to the ball diamond and try to beat the “stuffers” out of Armena, Brandland or Hay Lakes. I played first base for Dinant and great was the rivalry between Hay Lakes and Dinant at the July 1st Sports Day in Hay Lakes.

The winters in those early years were taken up with hockey and skating on the nearby ponds and in



Melva and Raymond Jornlin.

later years I found the sport of curling to be exciting. I spent many winters curling in the Camrose Club and going on the bonspiel trail.

Still farming and living with my folks, since the rest of the family had married and gone their own ways, I started playing golf in my spare time and am still very active in that sport.

When the folks grew old and needed special care, they moved to the Bethany Home and I continued farming until 1967 when I sold my land and moved to Camrose.

My folks passed away shortly after and in 1969 I did the unexpected — I got married!

Melva and I continue to live in Camrose in retirement. I still have the opportunity to go farming in the spring and fall which I enjoy very much. Our leisure time now is spent travelling, golfing and camping.

I feel very privileged to say I am a “native” of the Armena District.

Christopher Kelstad

Christopher Kelstad homesteaded on the SW 22-48-21. Mr. Kelstad and his wife had five children, Clara, Charlotte, Dora, Anton, and Obert. Tragedy struck the family when Clara was between two and three years of age. She was playing outside when she fell backwards into an open well and was drowned.

Mrs. Kelstad was a faithful member of Scandia Womens Mission Federation and was honoured with life membership together with five other ladies.

After Mrs. Kelstad passed away Charlotte and Obert moved to Victoria, British Columbia. Charlotte is in a home in Victoria. Obert passed away there.

Paul Switzer bought their land and at the time of writing Mr. and Mrs. Wolfgang Buban are its owners and living there.

John and Anna Klein

John and Anna were both born in the same village in Austria but never met until they came to Edmonton to work; Anna as a cook in the brickyard where John worked. They married in the fall of 1904, in Wetaskiwin, and spent that first winter in Edmonton. They then moved to homestead the SW¼ of Section 22-48-22 W4. John had an axe and a bucksaw and Anna had a trunk with a few clothes and some grey, wool blankets.

There were many Indians around and they gave the Kleins a big tin of Ceylon tea as a wedding gift; the Indians also gave them their first cow. During the years, the Indian people were good to them and gave them, among other things, a few chickens and a pig. John repayed them by helping them with their prob-

lems. He was appointed their chief and acted as advisor to them, settling estates and helping with taxes.

The first years on the farm, John built a log shack with a sod roof before he went to work, leaving Anna to stay on the homestead and keep things going. While living in this log house, the Kleins had five children, Anna born in 1906, Kate in 1907, Joe in 1909, Julia in 1910, and Rudolph in 1920.

In July, 1913, John Klein, Robert McCleod, and Alec McCleod decided they needed a school in their district. They formed the first board of the Big Hay Lakes School District.

John had to return to work in 1913 and again left Anna in charge of things. Anna, having built herself a stone-boat, would put two large, wooden barrels on it. She then hitched the black Angus bull to it, put the three oldest children on his back, and led him to Big Hay Lakes where she cut a hole in the ice to fill her barrels.

They managed to clear about three acres of land and seed it. In harvest time, John would cut the grain with a hand sickle and Anna would go behind and tie the grain into bundles, using grain twisted together for ties. They hauled the bundles, by oxen and stone-boat, to the yard. When the harvest was done, John would load one hundred pound sacks of wheat on his back, pack a lunch, and walk to Wetaskiwin to have it ground into flour. He also made many treks to town to exchange butter and eggs for groceries.

In 1917, Anna, Kate, and Joe started school at Big Hay Lakes.

John was hurt when a horse reared and fell on him, pushing the saddle horn into his stomach. As time went on, it was harder and harder for him to do the work. In 1920, John decided that the work was too hard for his family and decided to look for land that was a little better cleared.

The family moved to the Lundemo District by Armena. The children attended the Thronson School; Julie starting here. Rudolph started school at Swanhill, staying only one year before going to Brandland.

Rudolph and Alice Klein

Rudolph Klein worked with his father on the farm until, and following his marriage to Alice Mattson of Kingman, in July, 1940.

When first married, Rudolph and Alice used tree stumps for chairs and lived in a two-room house. Winters were long and cold, and the water froze in the kettle on the stove. While living in this house, Marvin was born in 1942. They took turns staying up at night, keeping the fires going for the baby.

Thirteen months later, along came twins; Keith



Kenneth, Marvin, and Keith Klein.

weighed three pounds, twelve ounces and Kenneth weighed four pounds, two ounces. The hospital was short of help because of the war so the twins were sent home in ten days. By this time however, the boys had lost considerable weight and were only a little over three pounds so Alice's sister, Ester, came to stay and help out. Rudolph, Alice, and Ester spent many long nights, taking turns staying up, as someone had to be with the babies all the time, they only drank about one ounce at a time. The twin boys spent that first winter in little baskets in the warming oven. Marvin called his little brothers "kitties"! When they were three months old, they weighed seven pounds.

When Marvin was two and the twins were one, Alice had to help with the stooking. They used to make a shelter out of stooks and would then put the three babies in it with their bottles and blankets.

In 1951, when Rudolph's parents moved to Camrose, Rudolph took over the family farm and he and his family moved into the big house. In August, along came the second set of twins; Lyle weighed five pounds, one ounce and Jeannette weighed four pounds, thirteen ounces. Times weren't quite so hard and they stayed in the hospital until they weighed five pounds.

Alice spent many hours scrubbing clothes on a scrub-board, for her family.

Marvin started school in Brandland and had to walk about three miles. When Keith and Kenneth started, there was a bus that took them to Armena. Lyle and Jeannette also started their schooling at Armena, later going to Hay Lakes.

All five children attended Sunday School and Confirmation at Wilhelmina Lutheran Church.

Marvin married Gloria Swaren, of Camrose, in 1965. They have one daughter and one son. Marvin is part-owner of Rose City Body Shop in Camrose and his family resides on an acreage in the Gwynne District.

Keith married Margaret Anger, of Duhamel, in 1966 and they have three daughters. Keith is a heavy-duty mechanic in Nisku and they live on the home place.

Kenneth married Linda Forman, of Dixonville, in 1970 and they have three daughters. Kenneth is a heavy-duty mechanic and works for R. Angus in Peace River. They live in Grimshaw.

Lyle married Debbie Huebner, of Hay Lakes, in 1971. They have three girls. Lyle lived for a time in Inuvik, N.W.T. and then moved to Ft. St. John, where he owned his own rental business. In 1981, they moved back to the Hay Lakes District having purchased the north quarter from his father.

Jeannette married Ron Makarowski, of Daysland, and they live in the Hay Lakes District with their two sons. Ron works for Ibsco Pipe Plant in Edmonton.

Rudolph, as well as farming, worked for Camrose Electric in Camrose and when they moved their shop to Edmonton, he drove back and forth for a time. When Keith, their son, purchased the home quarter, Rudolph and Alice moved to Camrose where he worked at his son Marvin's shop. Rudolph and Alice still live in Camrose.

Keith and Margaret Klein

Keith worked with his father on the farm, for a time, until his marriage to Margaret Anger of Duhamel in 1966. They spent the first one and one-half years in Edmonton where they were both employed. They purchased a house trailer and after moving it out to the farm, Keith helped with the farming as well as working in town.

In the spring of 1969, their first daughter, Cheryl, was born. Six months later, Keith and his family moved to Hinton, where Keith was employed by Cardinal River Coals, and apprenticed as a mechanic. In 1971, their second daughter, Corinne, was born. Later that year, Keith bought the home quarter from his father but they continued to live in Hinton until he received his mechanics licence.

In April, 1973, Keith moved his family back to the farm. He took the summer off to build a new house and in October, they moved in. Keith then went back to work in Edmonton. In March, 1976, their third daughter, Lisa, was born. Keith took a little time

off to do some farming and work around the farm and is now working in Nisku.

Aaste Knudsvig

by Irene Moore

Mrs. Knudsvig and her family came to the Camrose area in 1912 from the Bergen community, west of Olds, Alberta. Her husband Jone, died there and one daughter was married there.

In 1919, with her youngest son, Edwin, she moved to the farm seven miles north of Camrose to what is now known as the Camrose Hutterite Colony. In those days it was the Wilson farm.

In 1922, her daughter, Josephine Jones and her two small girls, Florence and Irene came to live with them after the fatal accident of her husband, Archie Jones.

The one remarkable feature of this farm was its artesian well, which flowed continuously all year round. This was the cause of the many sloughs. There was lots of good pasture and hay meadows. It was always exciting to watch the hay being put into the big barn with the slings.

There were always lots of cows to be milked and it seemed that the cans of cream were the main source of income. The cream was kept cool in a special cooling barrel through which the water from the artesian well was piped.

Edwin liked horses and did his share of breaking them to ride and drive. Horses were used to pull all the farm machinery.



Mrs. Aaste Knudsvig's 80th birthday.



Aaste Knudsvig and part of the clan that helped her celebrate her 80th birthday.

The chickens, turkeys and geese had the run of the barnyard and one had to be careful when out walking to be sure that the old gander was not in sight. One day he made the mistake of taking after "Grandma", as she was carrying a stick she used it, hitting him on the head. He keeled over and we all thought he was dead but as we stood watching, he got up, honked and strutted off in a rather zig-zag fashion. He didn't go into a feathertick that time but he had respect for Grandma after that.

In 1927, Josephine married Edward Henrickson and left to make a new home in the Armena area.

The call of the "North" got too strong for Edwin and in the spring of 1930, he had an auction sale and moved to Berwyn, Alberta. His mother went with him but came back to Camrose to live mainly with her daughter, Amelia Ofrim. Edwin married Olive Herron and they and their children, David and Louise lived at Berwyn for several years before moving to Victoria, B.C.

Kenneth and Bernice Knudtson

Kenneth worked on the farm for a time then held employment at the Exshaw Cement Factory near Cochrane for four years, until it was closed. One winter during the depression Kenneth worked for his uncle, Robert Lyseng at Armena for \$10 a month. Here he met Bernice Lomnes. In 1938 they were married and lived for a short time at Donalda where

Kenneth was farming near the Ibsen School and where their first child Norris was born. In 1943 they moved to Armena, to a farm north of the Lomnes home where they lived until 1947. During that time two more boys were born, Merrill and Lorne. They then moved to Camrose where they have since lived. Kenneth was active in Scouting for many years and was also a member of the Camrose School Board, until he became custodian at the Composite High School. Later on two lovely little daughters were born to Kenneth and Bernice, Brenda and Beverly. The family were all actively involved in the activities of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Later on Kenneth became a car-salesman for



Kenneth Knudtson family, August, 1974.

Central Garage, and after the children were grown Bernice worked part time at Bethany Home. After retirement Kenneth was in ill health for a time and passed away in the fall of 1981.

Norris married Charlotte Carlson and they have one son Eric. Norris is a distribution manager for General Motors of Canada and lives in Winnipeg. Merrill and his wife Colleen and two sons Connell and Theodore live in Calgary. Merrill is a medical doctor and is the Director of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at the Foothills Hospital. He is also Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Loren is also in Calgary and is a recreation director with the City of Calgary. Brenda married Robert Hanoski in 1979. Brenda is employed at Bethany Auxiliary Hospital and Rob works with the Continental Bank. Beverly lives in Edmonton where she is an operator with the Canadian National Railway.

Severt Kringen

Severt Kringen was born in Norway on January 13, 1853. He came with his family to the United States of America in 1876.

Jensine Larson was born in Norway in 1847.

In 1881, Jensine and Severt were united in marriage. The Kringens, together with their family of four daughters and one son, came to Canada from Dell Rapids, South Dakota in 1900.

Albert, who was sixteen years old then, was sent ahead with the cattle car. He was on the train for two weeks, sleeping and riding in the cattle car and being responsible for watering and feeding the stock.

They stopped at Innisfail, Alberta and stayed there over the winter. In the spring they continued their journey to the Armena district. They homesteaded the NW 18-48-20 W4 where they built a log house. Later they purchased the SW quarter in the same section and in 1912 they built a new house on the homestead.

Grandpa Kringen was a very skillful horseman.



Grandpa Severt Kringen sitting on car.



Kringen's first home in Canada.



Making hay at the Kringens, Clara driving the horses and Albert in the stack.

With memory's eye we see him sitting stately in his buggy with the lines from his well groomed team in one hand and a whip in the other. He very seldom had to use the whip tho' as he had his horses so well trained.

Grandma Kringen was often seen knitting as she strolled down the pathway to visit a neighbor. Both Grandpa and Grandma were members of Bethlehem congregation and when they passed away, Jensine in 1918 and Severt in 1933, they were laid to rest in that cemetery.

Laura, born in 1883 and their eldest child, married Bert Lomnes in 1903. (See Lomnes story)

Albert, born in 1884, married Christine Broen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian O. Broen. Their wedding ceremony took place in Scandia Church on October 15, 1910 and they lived on their homestead in the Kingman district. Their children were Clarence, Elsie, who passed away at an early age during the diphtheria epidemic, Amy, Orpha, who passed away in 1969, and her twin sister who died in infancy.

Clara, and her twin, Peter, were born in 1886. He died in infancy. Pauline was born in 1889.

Petra was born in 1891.

The "Kringen Girls", as they were commonly known by their neighbors, or the "Aunties", by their admiring neices and nephews, continued to live on the farm after their father's passing; they rented the land to Frank Fuernkranz.



Clara, Pauline, and Petra Kringen.

Petra was one of the graduates of the first commercial class at Camrose Lutheran College. She worked for several years at the Duncan Sampson store in Camrose before she returned home to be with her sisters on the farm.

The "Aunties" were never idle. They were very adept at hand work; many an old thrice-turned garment was changed, under their sewing machine, into a comfortable piece of clothing for needy children. They did much knitting as well for the Red Cross. If anyone needed help, whether during threshing or when Mother was incapacitated, it was only to call on the Kringen girls and help was on the way. A highlight of the year for them and the Hatfields was in the fall when they got together to butcher their turkeys. The girls were members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and took an active part in the activities of the choir, Young People's Society, and the Ladies' Aid.

Eldie Edvold came to live with them and she had loving care from Grandpa and Grandma as long as they lived. After Jensine and Severt had passed away, the "Aunties" continued to love and care for her. In 1934, she married Tony Broen and moved to his farm near by.

In 1949, they sold their farm to Hans and Sylvia Christenson and moved to their home in Camrose.

In 1955, the four sisters, Laura, Clara, Pauline and Petra, took a trip to South Dakota to attend a Kringen reunion and they also visited their many cousins and friends around Dell Rapids.



Severt Kringen home.

Pauline passed away in June, 1956. Clara, having lived in Bethany Home and Hospital for a time, passed away there in December, 1965. Petra also spent the remainder of her years at Bethany. She passed away in August, 1975. They all rest in Bethlehem Cemetery.

There are many fond memories among the nieces and nephews. According to us, "the Aunties" were special each in their own way and we learned to love and appreciate them very much.

The John Kubbernus History by Herbert Kubbernus

John Kubbernus was born in Europe near Berlin, Germany and immigrated to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He filed on a homestead in 1900, the location was N.E. ¼, Section 10-47-20-W4 two miles north of what became Camrose. In 1901 he came to Camrose, Alberta with his family of nine children. Four more children were born here, one dying in infancy. In the early years he operated a dairy business. John Kubbernus will be remembered as having named the Baldenstein school. In June 1905 he was elected to serve on the first Board of Trustees of School District #1315 in the village of Sparling, which later became Camrose.

The Herbert Kubbernus Family by Inga Kubbernus

Herbert (Herb) Kubbernus was born in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota and came to Canada in 1901 at the age of six years. He attended the first school in Camrose. His teacher was Miss Signe Spokkeli, the first teacher in Camrose.

In 1927 he married Inga Gjerde of Ryley, Alberta. We farmed the home place two miles north of Camrose until 1929 when it was sold to Chas. Dugan. The year of 1930 we lived on Nordstrom's place and spent that year brushing and breaking land for various farmers. In 1937 we bought the S-½ Section 20-47-20 W4 from Mr. Shaw who lived in the United



Back Row: Leon, Vernon, Virgil. Centre: Inga, Herb, Lorna.
Front: Donald Kubbernus.

States. It was virgin land that had earlier been homesteaded by the Jungkeit Brothers. Much hard work went into this place with many difficulties at times. We also have many happy memories, as neighbors visited and we talked and laughed together.

Our social life centered around our Baldenstein school concerts, picnics and other activities. With the arrival of the school buses our community life changed.

We have five children:

Lorna worked in drug stores and also took a

Nursing Aide Course and worked in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton and in the Inuvik Hospital, in Northwest Territory. She is married to R.C.M.P. Doug Harrison, and they live in Sherwood Park, Alberta. They have four children.

Vernon married Vera Felzien. He took up sheet metal work and was Branch manager in Calgary for J. K. Campbell and Associates until he retired to live in Enderby, B.C. They have three sons.

Leon is married to Kathryn Sjoblom. They live in Calgary and he is Field Supervisor for the same company as Vernon.

Donald married Solveig Tews. They also live in Calgary where he is one of the foremen for the same company.

Virgil married Betty Stevens and works for the Ford Company at Ft. St. John, B.C. They live in Hudson Hope, B.C. and have four children.

The farm was sold in 1960: the southwest quarter to Lyseng Brothers and the southeast quarter to Ray Frankson. We then bought a home in Wetaskiwin and Herb worked for the Imperial Lumber Company for several years. We spent a few years in Calgary but have now returned to Wetaskiwin to reside.

Andrew Larson Story as told by Elmer Olson

Among the influx of settlers that came into the country at the turn of the century was Andrew Larson and his wife Dortha Christine. He homesteaded



Andrew Larson home in spring of 1914. Left to Right: Al Fowler, Arnt Moe, Mrs. Larson, Mr. Larson, (boy) Elmer Olson.

NW-½-34-47-21 in 1902 and farmed there about twenty years. As a young girl Martha Brownell lived at their home until her marriage to Victor Anderson in 1912.

Elmer Olson had the pleasure of staying with Larsons while attending the Busk School in 1913. The teacher Georgia Farley, also boarded at the Larsons. Mr. Al Fowler occasionally drove over with his horse and buggy, it was assumed the attraction was the teacher. As a young boy quick to notice the similarity in their names I commented "Fowler and Farley" sounds a lot alike. At my tender age I wasn't aware of boy and girl attraction and puzzled over the laughter that ensued.

Andrew Larson passed away in September 1922. Mrs. Larson was in ailing health in her later years. Mrs. Rasmussen Sr. cared for her. Elmer Olson and his wife had the pleasure of visiting her before she passed away on February 17, 1938.

The Otto Lemke Family

Adina Schultz was born in Russia in 1911. During World War II the Schultz family were forced to leave their home and move to another place in Russia. Later her father went back to check on their place and he was put in prison for three months. When released he was put in the army. He discovered, however, that their home was converted into a bakery. There were four ovens in the house and the barn had been demolished and used for fire wood. Presumably the bread was for food for the army.

In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Shultz and family



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Lemke and Werner.

came to Canada and settled on the place where Enos Lamprecht now lives. Later they moved to Bittern Lake and took up farming there.

At a young age Adina had to seek employment. She took local jobs then later worked in Calgary doing housework. In 1934 she married Otto Lemke, a farmer from Falun. They lived there until in 1938 when they, and their two daughters Lillian and Irmgard, purchased a farm from Mat Weisser in the Armena district and they moved there. Here four more children were born; Werner, Trudy, Norma and Gladys. They all received their elementary schooling at Armena. Trudy, Norma, and Gladys finished their high school at Camrose Lutheran College.



Lemke sisters. Norman, Gladys, Irmgard, Trudy, Lillian.

Otto passed away in 1950. Adina with the help of her children was able to continue farming. Werner was only thirteen years old at the time but pitched in and did the field work.

In 1959 they sold the farm to the Bill Pryske family. Adina moved to Camrose and started working at Bethany Hospital. She enjoyed her work there and continued on for sixteen years. She is now retired and lives in her home on 48B Avenue in Camrose.

Lillian and her husband and two daughters live in Richmond, British Columbia.

Irmgard has three boys. Trudy, a social worker, has one daughter and Gladys a teacher, has one son. These three, with their husbands and children live in Coquitlam, B.C.

Werner continued his studies at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, graduating as a Pastor. He is presently ministering at Aberdeen Hills, Baptist Church in



The Rev. Werner Lemke and wife Carol.

Kamloops, B.C. He and his wife Carol have one son and two daughters.

Norma, a teacher, married a pastor who is presently serving a congregation in Lethbridge. They have two daughters and two sons.

The S. J. Lindberg and Alvin Pederson Families

by Alien Pederson

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lindberg immigrated to the United States from Sweden as children — Mr. Lindberg at the age of seven and Mrs. Lindberg at the age of fifteen. Mr. and Mrs. Lindberg were married in Omaha, Nebraska and later farmed in Wausa, Nebraska. In 1926 they immigrated to Canada, arriving in Camrose on February 27, 1926 with their children, Clifton and Alien.

The family settled at Doreenlee, Alberta, where they farmed until the spring of 1931. They moved to the Camrose North area — settling on the Gust Anderson farm which they rented for several years. The Lindberg family became active members of the Fridhem Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Lindberg was well known for her culinary skills, as she cooked for many church conventions at the various Lutheran Churches in the area. She was also the first cook to prepare meals for the students of the Camrose Lutheran Bible School. The facilities at the former Messiah Lutheran Church were used as the first dining hall and class rooms until a school, with dormitories and kitchen facilities, was built.

Mr. Lindberg and Clifton also owned a threshing

machine and did custom threshing for neighbors as well as their own crops.

On December 8, 1933, Alien was joined in marriage to Alvin Pederson, eldest son of Mrs. Mary Pederson. The marriage ceremony was performed in the spacious Lindberg home by Pastor Eriksson of the Fridhem Lutheran Church.

After their marriage they moved to the Ludwig Lyseng farm where they lived about four years. Besides Alvin farming the Lyseng land, Alvin and Clifton rented a half section adjoining the Lyseng farm.

In the spring of 1938 they moved to Mrs. Mary Pederson's farm — Alvin's home place, where they farmed until it was sold to Oscar Jasman.

Alvin and Alien moved to a farm in the Lundemo area for two years until moving to the Munson farm in the east Camrose area where they farmed until moving to Camrose in 1942. After moving to Camrose, Alvin was employed with construction until 1971 when failing health caused his early retirement.

To Alvin and Alien's marriage five children were born — Ronald, Leland, Myrnel and twin sons, Myron and Maynard. Maynard passed away in infancy. The children grew up and took their schooling in Camrose.

On October 9, 1938 Clifton Lindberg was united in marriage to Florence Cramer of Camrose at the Fridhem Lutheran Church.

Besides farming with his dad; Clifton also had a freight trucking service in Camrose with the Canadian Pacific Railway and commuted each day back to the farm.

To Clifton and Florence's marriage three children were born — Raymond, Marilyn and Darlene.

In the fall of 1944 Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lindberg and the Clifton Lindberg family moved to Camrose where Clifton continued with the freight service.

After moving to Camrose the Lindberg families and the Pederson family were instrumental in helping to organize and be charter members of the Bethel Lutheran Church under the capable leadership of Pastor C. Robert Pearson. The Bethel Church now has a very active membership.

In March of 1956 Clifton Lindberg passed away at the age of forty-three years.

Mr. S. J. Lindberg passed away in Camrose in July 1966, at the age of ninety-one years. After Mr. Lindberg's death, Mrs. Lindberg Sr. and Florence Lindberg sold the home in Camrose. Mrs. Lindberg Sr. moved to Bethany Sunset Home where she resided about ten years until she passed away at the age of eighty-six years in 1975. Her blue enamel cook stove, which was brought along from the United

States when the family moved to Camrose, was donated by Mrs. Alien Pederson to the museum in Camrose and is on display there.

Florence Lindberg has resided in Edmonton for several years and is employed with the Edmonton Journal.

In December of 1980, Alvin Pederson passed away in Camrose at the age of seventy-four years.

These are the marriages of Alvin and Alien Pederson's children:

In 1955 Ronald was united in marriage to Doreen Blue of Macklin, Saskatchewan. Their children are Debbie, Keith, Shirley and Gwyn.

In 1963 Leland was united in marriage to Ingalise Moller of Calgary and had a child, Beverley. His second marriage, in 1967, was to Carol LaFlesh of Windsor, Ontario. Their children are Debbie, Susan, Wendy, and Tracey.

In 1961 Myrnel was united in marriage to Douglas Lindstrand of Camrose. Their children are Blaine, Shelley, Darrel and Robert.

In 1965 Myron was united in marriage to Lucille Dallyn of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Their child is Brenda.

Grandchildren who married are:

In 1974 Debbie was married to Melvin Johnson of Edmonton and their children are Tara and Carla.

In 1978 Shirley was united in marriage to Dale Brown of Edmonton (formerly of England) and their child is named Karmen.

These are the marriages of Clifton and Florence Lindberg's children:

In 1961, Raymond was married to Marlene Taylor of Camrose and their children are Laura and Warren.

In 1962 Marilyn married Lorne Lyon of Ponoka and their children are Robert and Michael.

In 1966 Darlene was united in marriage to Jim Kyle of Edmonton and they have two children, Jeffrey and Christopher.

Freeman and Rose Lofgren

We bought the Wallbank farm at Barlee Junction in 1972. With the help of our son Padget, we built a home and moved to the farm in the fall of 1973.

That was the year of the "big snow". Rose was teaching at Sparling School in Camrose, only two miles away, but when the flood came in the spring, we had to drive eighteen miles to get there.

Archie Wallbank had moved to the Nashville district in 1934, across the road from my parents' farm. We have been friends through the years and when Archie decided to sell the farm he gave us the opportunity to purchase it.

Rose taught school until 1978 when she decided



Rose and Freeman Lofgren.

on early retirement and took up the hobby of gardening and flowers.

We have sold a part of the farm to Koppers International, manufacturers of power poles and wood basements, etc.

We have a family of two sons, Douglas an advertising salesman, and Padget, a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch.

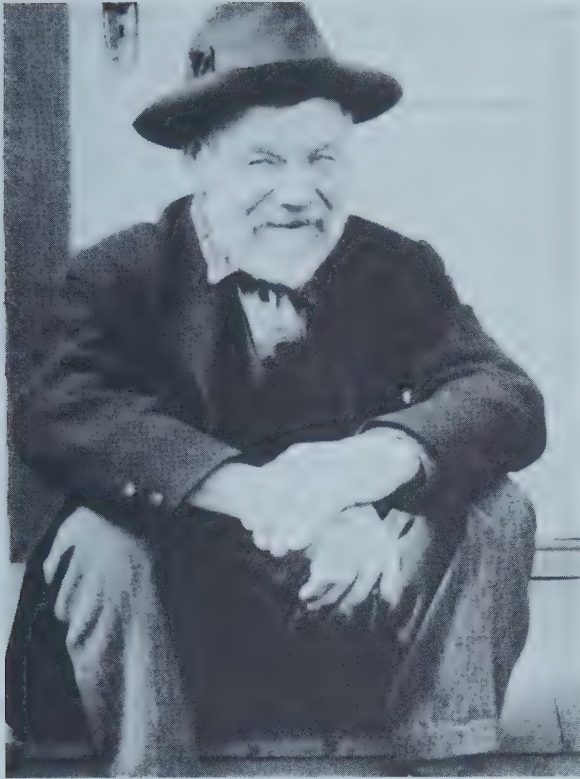
This summer, July 19, 1982 we are looking forward to celebrating our fortieth anniversary.

The Lomnes Family of Armena

In 1883 Halsten and Guro Lomnes, with their young son Bertin age eight years, emigrated from Rendalen, Norway to North Dakota, U.S.A. where they farmed for seventeen years. Evidently their farming operations were not very successful because news of the new, rich homestead lands in Alberta lured Halsten and Bert north to look into the prospects of making a home in a new land.

They arrived in Wetaskiwin by train in the summer of 1900. Somehow they made their way northeast to the present Armena district and found land that seemed suitable to their needs. Halsten filed a homestead on N.E. ¼ of 14-28-21-west of the 4th Meridian. Bert filed on S.E. ¼ of 14-48-21-west of the 4th Meridian. They then returned to North Dakota.

In the Spring of 1901 the Lomnes family, Halsten and Guro, son Bert and daughter Mina, age ten, arrived in Wetaskiwin with all their worldly possessions. They made the long trek to the Armena district



Halsten (Bergerson) Lomnes, 1932.



Halsten and Goro Lomnes, 1906.



Lomnes farm. Bert holding Lester, Laura, Bennie, Harry, Sophie, Gertie, Grandpa Lomnes.

with their own horses and wagons. The rest of the spring, summer and fall must have been a very busy time because they built the first section of the present house to shelter them during the first Alberta winter, 1901-02.

Severt Kringen arrived with his family from South Dakota in 1902. He settled one mile east of the Lomnes homestead on N.W. of 18-48-20 west of the 4th Meridian. Severt and Jensine had a family of five, namely Laura, Albert, Clara, Pauline and Petra. In 1903 Bert Lomnes married Laura Kringen and took up residence with the Lomnes family. During these early years an addition was made to the original house built in 1901.

Mina married Edward Lyseng in 1910. This left more room in the crowded quarters for a growing Lomnes family.

Those early years were years of hard work to clear and break the required number of acres each year to prove the homesteads. During the first two decades much progress was made. Besides the regular everyday work of brush cutting, breaking of new land, building of barns and other farm buildings, technological changes were beginning to have an effect upon their lives. Some time during the first World War the telephone line came to the Armena district. This was a significant event as it meant instant communication with the neighbors and the rest of the world.

Bert bought one of the first cars in the Armena district about 1916 or 17. It was a 1913 Model T Ford with a brass radiator. This was the beginning of the modern era in travel and transportation. So new was the idea of driving a mechanical vehicle that Bert headed for an open pasture plot west of the house for his first drive to learn the intricate process of driving.

About the same time, 1917 or '18, Bert was one of the first in the district north of Camrose to buy a tractor. It was a 10-20 Mogul International. On the day he brought the tractor home from Camrose, people started to arrive at the Lomnes farm in the

early afternoon by wagon, buggy, horseback and some walked. They all came to see this wonderful machine called a tractor. The farm yard looked like a gathering for a 1st of July picnic. About 3:00 p.m. a faint rhythmic sound was heard coming from the south, which steadily grew in intensity. Finally someone yelled, "I see it! I see it!" There it was — about a quarter of a mile south. As the tractor entered the yard, the men scrambled to look after their horses as they were becoming quite uneasy by this time.

Finally Bert stopped the tractor in the middle of the yard. The men soon surrounded it and gave a loud cheer that not doubt was heard for miles. After the mystery machine had been examined and touched by the curious onlookers it was time to start the thing to see if it could pull the new three-bottom plough. After cranking for some time without results, it back-fired with a loud bang. The spectators, like a group of curious mice, scrambled back to a safe distance. After some more cranking the tractor started and the crowd cheered.

Bert drove through the yard gate and turned south. With one gentle pull on a rope the plough shares slid into the soil and three nice, clean furrows were turned while the Mogul chugged happily along and all the spectators trailed along like a flock of sea gulls following the plough to grab the juicy worms.

There was one more surprise. When Bert started the second round he lowered the mechanical steering man attached to the front wheel into the furrow. To the amazement of all, the driver stepped off the tractor and walked while the Mogul continued to run a true course guided by the mechanical steering man. This steering man can be seen in the picture of Bert and his son Lester on the 10-20 Mogul International.

After this beginning of modern times, the tractor became the main source of power for the farmers. New models more powerful and compact, appeared on the market year after year until the sophisticated tractors of today.

For many years Bert served as Secretary-treasurer of the Thordensjold School District No. 421.

Music had a high priority in the Lomnes family. All the members of the family were encouraged to sing and learn to play some instrument. For many years Bert directed the Skandia Junior choir.

Although Bert did not have the advantage of a high school and university education, one might say he had a practical self-taught master's degree in engineering. All the repairs to the farm machinery and tractors were done at home. Many labor saving devices came to fruition in the farm blacksmith shop — the results of a resourceful and inventive mind and skillful hands. A pressure pump in the well, an under-



The very latest in mechanized farming, about 1920.

ground pipe and a water tank upstairs in the house provided a simple, but effective indoor water supply as early as World War I times. There was also the innovative method of pumping water from two wells 200 feet apart by the use of one pump engine. There were many more labor saving devices, too numerous to mention, which were unique to the Lomnes farm.

Bert and Laura Lomnes had a family of eight, with no discrimination in sex as there were four girls and four boys.

Gertie, born in 1904, married George Lyseng of Armena in 1926. They had a family of four boys — Denis, Wayne, Larry and Orin.



Bert Lomnes family, 1911. Sophie, Mrs. Lomnes, Gertie, Mr. Lomnes holding Bennie.



Gertie, Bennie and Sophie Lomnes.

Sophie, born in 1906, married Jack Kolisnyk of Armena in 1949. They had one daughter, Joan.

Bennie, born in 1909, married Clara Scotvold of Lake Demay in 1934. They had a family of two — Terence and Dianne.

Harry, born in 1911, married Dorothy Pinder of Fort Macleod in 1939. They had a family of two — Randy and Wendy.

Lester, born in 1914, married June Miller of Hay Lakes in 1950. Members of their family are Lynn, Donovan and Cheryl.

Bernice, born in 1917, married Kenneth Knudson of Donalds in 1938. They had a family of five — Norris, Merrill, Lorne, Brenda and Beverly.

Palma, born in 1921, married Sten Gunderson of Camrose in 1945. They had a family of three girls — Darla, Laura and Rhoda.

Palmer, Palma's twin brother died at the age of six weeks.

Deaths in the Lomnes family since 1901 are:

Guro Lomnes died in 1912 at the age of 61. Halsten Lomnes died in 1937 at the age of 87. Bert Lomnes died in 1950 at the age of 74. Laura Lomnes died in 1958 at the age of 75. Palmer Lomnes died in 1921 at the age of 6 weeks. Sophie Lomnes died in 1981 at the age of 75.

Harry Lomnes, the son of Bert and Laura Lomnes, was born at Armena in 1911. He completed his first nine grades at the old Thordensjold School, his high school at the Camrose Lutheran College and his teacher training at the Normal School in Camrose in 1932-33. His teaching career, which lasted thirty-nine years, began in 1933 at the Sawyer School, a small country school six miles south of Kelsey. After nine years in the Kelsey and Camrose area, and one year in Tofield, he accepted a teaching position with the Wetaskiwin School District No. 264 in 1943, a position he held until his retirement in 1972. Positions held with the Wetaskiwin Board were ten years as teacher of math, science, art and music in Junior High, three years as Principal of the Elementary and Junior High Schools and sixteen years as Supervisor of Music for the Wetaskiwin Schools.

After six years of summer school at the University of Alberta he completed a B. Ed. degree in 1950. With three more summers at the University of Montana he completed a Master of Music degree. He was one of the pioneers in the School Band movement in Alberta in the early fifties and formed the first school band in Wetaskiwin in 1953. He is a charter member of the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Band Association formed in 1955, served one year as president of the Alberta Branch and one year, 1962-63, as National President of the C.B.A.

In 1939 Harry married Dorothy Pinder, a teacher

from Macleod, Alberta. Their children, Randy born in 1942 and Wendy born in 1948, received their elementary and high school education in Wetaskiwin.

Randy continued his education at the University of Alberta where he received his Doctor of Physics Degree in 1971. He resides in Coquitlam, B.C. where he works in research and development in physics and electronics. He married Karen Bratvold of Edmonton, and has two sons, Brent and Gregory.

Wendy continued her education at the University of Alberta where she received a B. Sc. in Household Economics. A year later she continued studies in geology at the University of British Columbia and graduated two years later from the University of Calgary with a B. Sc. in Petroleum Geology. At present she is engaged by an oil company in Calgary as a petroleum geologist.

After retiring from teaching in 1972, Harry and Dorothy continue to make Wetaskiwin their home which, in their opinion, is a very special place.

The Bennie Lomnes Family

The third child, the eldest son, of Bert and Laura Lomnes was Bennie. He grew up, a very normal boyhood, on the family farm north of Armena. One of the favorite pastimes in the spring and summer was roaming the woods hunting birds' nests with brothers Harry and Lester. Many a time they would come back with ripped pant leg seams or torn pants. Those tree branches had such a habit of getting caught in pants, often causing the boys to leave rags of pants like flags in the tree, almost as if to say, "The Lomnes boys were here." It was also convenient to get back home after milking time in the evening. This meant that their mother and sisters Gertie and Sophie by that time had finished most of the chore. In winter the boys would spend Saturday and Sunday afternoons, if the weather were favorable, at the "scaffold hill" skiing. Years before the men of the neighborhood had built a ski scaffold on this hill on the Lomnes's north quarter. The scaffold had long since blown down, but the hill was still there and to the three

Thordenskjold School

No. 421



TRUSTEES

B. Lomnes G. O. Hendrickson
C. K. Lyseng

TEACHER

Alma Lyseng

PUPILS

GRADE VIII.

Alice Lyseng

GRADE VI.

Charlotte Kelstad	Edna Lyseng
Josephine Broen	Helmer Hendrickson
Willie Movold	Emma Hendrickson

GRADE V.

Martha Parks	Martha Hendrickson
Gertie Lomnes	Martin Movold
Robert Lyseng	

GRADE IV.

Sophie Lomnes	Anga Hendrickson
Gilbert Movold	Magnus Broen

GRADE II.

Thea Hendrickson	Bennie Lomnes
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GRADE I. Senior.

Ella Hendrickson

GRADE I. Junior.

Elmer Hendrickson

PRIMER

Alma Lyseng

Lomnes boys and Emil, Adolf and Alvin Peterson the hill was so big and steep. But they had fun skiing dreaming of becoming ski jumping champions. Now when the hill which then seemed so big is viewed it's surprising how little it has become. But the boys had fun. During the winter no matter how cold the weather, the Peterson boys drove a team to school, Thordenskjold, and would stop by to pick up the Lomnes boys. Then three boys at a time would ski behind the cutter to school.

One incident that stands out in Bennie's mind occurred in the summer of 1923. Vernon Stavne and Everald Scotvold one Sunday afternoon stopped by to pick up the Lomnes boys, they were driving a single horse and buggy, the idea was to go to the "Hudson Bay Slough", a mile and a half north of Lomneses, for a swim. On the way, just opposite the Peterson family, the horse reared up and kicked over the single tree and struck Bennie and Lester, breaking Lester's jaw. Bennie was more fortunate receiving a cut under his chin requiring only a few stitches. That was a pleasure ride that resulted in a near fatal tragedy.

Bennie finished his public school, through grade nine, at Thordenskjold school. Grades ten, eleven, and twelve were taken at Camrose Lutheran College. In the fall of 1929 he enrolled at Camrose Normal School, graduating June 5, 1930 with a teacher's certificate. His first school was his home school, Thordenskjold. His salary was \$1100 a year with an added \$100 for teaching grade nine. \$1200 a year was at that time a very good salary.



Bennie Lomnes family. Bennie, Terence, Clara, Dianne.

In 1930 began the depression years. Salaries tumbled with everything else. Bennie's salary dropped to \$900. This was way above the average as many teachers taught for \$600 and less.

In 1934 Bennie married Clara Scotvold, his sweetheart of College days. Equipped with a tent and bedding, lunch boxes, and \$50 in cash, the couple set off for Banff in their 1928 Chevy to spend their honeymoon. They spent a very enjoyable two weeks there, although sleeping on the ground was not exactly to Clara's liking. After the honeymoon was over they settled down in their first home, a two-roomed teacherage on the Thordenskjold school grounds. In 1938 a son, Terence, was born to the couple and welcomed into the family.

In September of 1940, after ten years at Thordenskjold, Bennie was transferred to Meeting Creek to teach social studies and English (both English composition and literature) in grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve. One year was spent in Meeting Creek after which it was off to Round Hill for eleven years as Principal of the school there. In 1945 Dianne was added to the family.

Every summer in the '40's was spent at the University of Alberta Summer School session working towards a Bachelor of Education degree. He was granted his degree in the fall of 1948. To celebrate the graduation the family, with Lorraine (Scotvold) Mackwood along, spent the summer of 1949, a seven week holiday, with Clara's sister in Centerville, South Dakota, their first real out of Alberta family holiday.



Myrtle and Bennie Lomnes.

In 1952 Bennie was transferred to Camrose to become the first principal of the Sifton School which was being opened there. Here he remained until his retirement in 1972. In 1970 the family was saddened by the passing of Clara after a lengthy illness.

In June of 1972, Bennie left for Papua New Guinea on a short-term teaching assignment with the Mission Board of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada. In 1974 he returned to Camrose to spend his retirement there. The trip to Papua New Guinea had aroused in Bennie a love for travel. It was on one of these tours, to Spain this time, that he met Myrtle Webster. They were married in December 1977. They now reside in their home on Camrose, enjoying their retirement together.

The Lester Lomnes Family

written by Bennie Lomnes

Lester, the fifth child — the third son of Bert and Laura Lomnes, was born on the family farm in 1914. Being the youngest of the three boys, he always had to tag along behind his older brothers, Bennie and Harry. He was just a bother to them so in spite of “bawling out” from mother and father they were always somehow able to “lose” him and take off for places unknown to him. Later, after sister Bernice came along, he decided it was more fun to tease her than be with the boys.

Lester was quite an inventive youngster who liked to play with tools. Therefore he often got blamed by Grandpa Lomnes for taking and losing his tools when poor Lester hadn't touched them. Grandpa himself had misplaced them. Lester was Grandpa's “scapegoat” most of the time and Grandpa would say, “What's going to become of that boy!” If Grandpa could see Lester today, he would be very proud.

Paul Berg, who was Lester's godfather and our long-time hired man, is well-remembered by Lester. Bedtime was not always sleep-time. It was fun-time. Up in the shared bedroom, Paul would be telling stories, and we'd laugh, especially Lester. He would laugh until he cried. Maybe that would explain why he was so hard to rouse in the morning, he'd exhausted himself laughing the night before. Paul had a real way with Lester and was able to “weasel” him into doing his chores for him, especially climbing into the hayloft to fill the hay chutes for the ten horses.

Our family enjoyed music, so evenings were spent in the livingroom playing various instruments. The five oldest Lomnes kids along with father and Paul, had quite an orchestra. This was a great way to spend the long winter evenings as at that time, there



Home from school.

were no radios or TV's to take up one's time. During these evenings Grandpa Lomnes would repair to the kitchen with his “Norröna”, (Norwegian Paper) and close the door as he couldn't stand the “noise.”

One sport the boys enjoyed was to get into the barn when the cows were let out for the day and turn the calves loose from their pens to let them run and play in the barn. One spring there were seven calves in one pen. Six of them would jump over the lower barrier without any coaxing. The seventh just wouldn't venture out. But finally one day, out he jumped. So it was with the seven Lomnes children, six married and moved out, leaving one unmarried. But on July 2, 1950 the seventh one made it “over the rail.” Lester married June Miller of Hay Lakes and they took over the family farm. Along with grain farming they went into the dairy business.

Lester and June have a family of three. Lynne was born in 1951. She married Randy Roper of Hay Lakes. They with their two children, Michael and Stacie, live in Sherwood Park.

In 1954 Donovan was born. He married Peggy Gunderson of Camrose in 1977 and they have a son, Cory. They live in Camrose.

Cheryl arrived in 1957. She is married to Wayne Domes of Ohaton and they also live in Camrose.

In 1975 Lester and June celebrated their twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary.

In 1976, Lester, according to Dr. Hampton Smith, underwent a “change of life.” He went out of the dairy business after almost twenty years. Since then, they have sold all but the home quarter. The land is rented out and Lester and June are “semi-retired”, but are probably busier than ever. The dairy barn has been converted into a woodworking shop where Lester does some upholstery and refinishing furniture.

The milk room has become a greenhouse, so during the late winter and spring they are busy with the greenhouse part of "Lomnes Enterprises." Summer finds them busy tending their beautiful park-like yard — they both have "green thumbs."

June is kept busy inside as well. Ceramic classes are held in her home twice a week throughout the winter and she seems to keep the kiln hot. Most of the planters and other little novelties to be seen around the yard are proof of her abilities.

Lester was at one time active with the Scout movement and he also sang with the Scandia Men's Chorus. Both he and June are active in the Scandia Church.

I Remember

by Mary Lehmann

Armena! Here Rudy and I spent seven happy, busy years, at the age when every new venture was an adventure. In this congenial, Christ-centered rural district we were accepted and made to feel an integral part of the community, strangers though we were. New friends took us hospitably into their homes, to become old friends after so many years. Our three children (Alfred, Betty Anne and Alan) grew, laughed and played with many their own age, and



Mr. Lehmann.



Mary Lehmann.



Alfred, Betty Anne, and Alan Lehmann. Alan's first day of school.

received wholesome training in church and school. Their companions have also become life-long friends. I recall with pleasure associations I had with the Sunday School, W.M.F., W.C.T.U. and the summers at Hastings Lake Bible Camp. Scandia Church holds many dear recollections.

Reminiscing? Yes. But now that a history is being written, it makes me realize that these things happened long ago. I pray that Armena will continue, with God's blessing, to provide such cherished memories for many in the future.

The Harold Lovrod Family

Harold, a native of Bawlf was married to Corine Knudson on August 8, 1964 in Calgary. Following

seminary graduation in 1965 they moved to Rabbit Lake, Sask. While there, on June 1, 1966, Shelley Denise was born. In the summer of 1969 Pastor Harold received and accepted the Call to serve as pastor of the Armena Lutheran Parish. The family moved to Armena in September of 1969.

The years at Armena were happy ones for the Lovrods. They enjoyed the spacious parsonage and the opportunity to serve in a strongly church-related community. Shelley began Sunday School at Scandia; her first teacher was Jean Green. She started school at the Armena Public School with Irene Moore as her teacher — Don Green was principal. Her interest in music which continues to date began under Anne Lyseng who came to the house. On May 23, 1970 Sheri Dawn was born. She's the only Lovrod baptized at Scandia. The children enjoyed the large yard, (and Nisi's park at the back door), daily trips to Raynold's store and many friends in the hamlet and district.

Lovrods remember a good spirit of cooperation in the congregation and community. People worked well together to provide a good environment. They recall the Friday night skating parties, the farewell to winter carnivals, (ice-cream pail curling on the outdoor rink) the annual bonspiels at Hay Lakes, the sports days — one with a parade — even a band. In the church it was a period when many young people were growing up. Pastor Harold recalls the fund

raising endeavours (selling hamburgers at Jay-walkers) and the travelling to two youth conventions at Thunder Bay in 1972 and Vancouver in 1974 — part way by bicycle. At both conventions the Armena group had the largest representation of any other congregation across the country.

In the summer of 1974 Harold received and accepted Call to serve at Swift Current, Sask. In August they left Armena with good memories of members of the congregation and friends in the community. Currently they live in Strasbourg, Sask. having left Swift Current in the fall of 1979.

Lars Loveseth Family

Early Days in Camrose

by Grant and Ann Loveseth

After having purchased a half section of raw land, the E½ of 27-47-20 W4, four miles north of Camrose while visiting relatives there, we arrived in Camrose in March, 1911 with three car loads of settlers effects, three teams of purebred Percheron mares and also some purebred Shorthorn cattle.

Dad rented the buildings of the P. D. Peterson place (later known as the Swedberg place) while he got some of the buildings up on our own place. Our first land clearing and breaking started with horses but we found that oxen, of which we had two yokes, were better for stump pulling and breaking land and were then used until we got our first steam engine.



Breaking land on farm north of Camrose in 1916. Everybody helps! Back Row, Left to Right: ?, Fowler, ?, Enoch, Ella, Loveseth, Grant, ?. Front Row, Left to Right: O. Thompson, ?, Johnson, Jack, Mrs. Loveseth, Elvin, Jenny, Mrs. Johnson, ?.



Lars Loveseth with his purebred Percheron "Ardell", purchased from Lakewood Farms in Iowa, U.S.A.



Lars Loveseth farm, four miles north of Camrose.

The oxen were then sold to Johnny Johnson, who had worked for us and also freighted goods to Valhalla in Peace River.

Dad made two trips down to Lakewood Farms, in Iowa, where he purchased five Percheron stallions. These later became the foundation of the Percheron horses of the district.

With the steam engine, land clearing and fresh breaking was easier with our three Van Slack 24" Brush Breakers all in a gang. Besides our own land, we did custom work, stump pulling and breaking well over eight-hundred acres.

Water being a problem with dug wells, my brother, Enoch, along with Casper Ostrom and later Hans Servold, drilled many deep wells in the district.

In the years 1924 and 1925, Dad took a contract to grade roads all over the township, from Armena to Round Hill and south as far as Duhamel district, pulling two twelve-foot graders for as much as a mile. I don't remember the price but in the two years, we had travelled eight-hundred miles and we often said that had we gone in a straight line, we would have ended up in Winnipeg.

We also brought up from the States, our 1909

Auburn car. We had many funny incidents with the car those days as the horses had not seen cars before. Where there were no fences the drivers would take a swing around, or maybe they would jump out and hold the horses as we went by, or we would stop until they got by. There were many near runaways too!

We joined the old Hougas Lutheran Church with Rev. T. T. Carlson as minister. This church was half a block north of the old Catholic Church, straight down the street after crossing the C.P.R. This was either torn down or burned, I don't remember which, and the Lutherans then joined together and made it the United Lutheran. That church was on the north-west corner of the same block as the John Russell School, and this was used until it became too small. A new church was then built two blocks east of the Post Office. I think Dad and his men, with four horses on a Fresno scraper, and John Hanson dug most of the basement. There were also a lot of others who volunteered their help. It was during that time that I think what we called "Camrose Week" was started.

Those were the days when everyone co-operated and there was real community spirit. Dad had made three or four long tables up in the grove of trees and many times in the summer the neighbors would bring their dinners after church and put them together for a picnic. We had a three-gallon ice cream freezer and we would make the ice cream. I can still taste it! After we had eaten, we would pitch horseshoes or choose up sides for a ball games in front of the house.

We also had our own butcher equipment and saw outfit and we would make the rounds throughout the area. The neighbors helped us and we would do their butchering and wood sawing. The ladies were along most of the time and this made it a visit as well, while the men did all the work.

How many of you remember the tannery just south of the Sunderman farm and the job we had to keep the horses from crossing the ditch and tearing the fence down every time we went by as they didn't like the smell? And have you ever tried to drive four oxen, when the heel flies were bad?

We had several runaways and once we were pulling trees by Nesvolds fence, hooking the cable as high as we could reach and they would just hang there to bend the tree so we could chop the roots. However, this one was rotten inside and the tree fell on the oxen's backs and they took off and didn't stop until they got home.

We always had what we called at least two or sometimes three threshing runs. First was the farmers in our immediate area, then we went in other areas with six or eight farmers. The farmers were paid so much per day — up to \$6.00 for man and team for



Loveseth's road-grading machinery. By the steamer — Grant, Ida Moe, Fowler, Jennie Loveseth. On street east of the old John Russell School. Cook cars at the far left. Ida Moe and Fowlers were the cooks.



The Loveseth family. Lars, Martha, Jennie, Grant, Enoch, John, Alvin — arriving in Canada in 1911 with their 1909 auburn car.



Loveseth's threshing with steam engine, late 1920's. Pete Erickson, on coal wagon, Art Jasman — on steamer, Alvin Loveseth — below rack, Mr. and Mrs. Loveseth and Olga Wiggen — in front, Grant Loveseth — top of thresher.

hauling bundles to the threshing machine. The farmer arranged to haul away his own grain but we had a grain elevator with the machine to unload the grain. With the steam outfit we carried ten bundle-teams, two water tanks, and a coal team as we burned one three-ton load everyday. This would make a crew of twenty-two or twenty-three men for the farmer's wife to feed.

In those days the highlight of the year was the Christmas season with our church and school festivities. There was also the large family gatherings and it was always a problem of being able to fit your day of entertaining when everybody was free and then there were times when we went to one neighbors home for dinner and when chore time came, to hurry home to do them and then go to another neighbor's for a big supper.

My sister, Jennie, and brother, Alvin, and I first went to school in town at the John Russell School. I was eight years old and I later attended the Baldenstein School, two miles west. From that school we developed two professional wrestlers, Adolf and Tiny Mittlestad, and I am sure that we in school gave them their early training.

In 1927 Dad and Mother were sent to Norway as immigration agents by the C.N.R. to recruit immigrants. Resulting from that visit with Ann's parents, Ann later arrived in Camrose for which I will be eternally grateful. We were married in October, 1931. We have two married children, Annabelle (Mrs. Clayton Thorne) living at Cowichan Bay, B.C., and Peter and his wife and family at Agassiz, B.C.

Dad passed away suddenly in 1935 while we were threshing at Nesvolds. We then moved to the home

place as Ann and I were the only ones left farming. We had earlier rented Aunt Ida's one-half section and worked together on both farms. Five or six years later the farm was sold to Mr. Borth who later sold it to the Hutterites.

Besides myself, there were three brothers, Enoch, John, and Alvin, and one sister, Jennie, in our family. Enoch married Ella Johnson in 1914. He founded Loveseth Ltd., a garage business, in Edmonton in the early 1920's. It is still in operation although Enoch is not active in it; his son, Lloyd, is now the manager. The three girls in this family are Alvina (Mrs. Cameron Ritchie) of Edmonton, Joyce (Mrs. Douglas Sherbaniuk) of Mississauga, Ontario, and Betty Anne (Mrs. Ray Smith) of Calgary.

John (Jack) was a salesman for insurance and real estate and later was in the oil promotion in Saskatchewan. He was married to Myrtle Smith. His death occurred in 1958 while on a trip to California.

Jennie married Elvin Fowler in 1916. Their three sons were Leroy of Calgary, Lars of Chemainus, B.C., and Dean of Drayton Valley, Alberta. Jennie passed away in 1953 and her husband was killed in an automobile accident in 1954. For many years prior to her death, Jennie operated a beauty parlour in Camrose.

Alvin married Liv Lund and had a family of four children. Iris (Mrs. D. Secord) of Langley, B.C., Leonnard (deceased) was a Doctor in Sam Francisco, California, John of Edmonton, and Iona (the late Mrs. Bob Fraser) of New Zealand. Alvin passed away in 1972.

Our mother, after having lived with Ann and I for eighteen years, passed away in 1953.

Jacob Lunde

Jacob Lunde was married to Inga Janson in the United States. In 1900 they moved to Canada and homesteaded the quarter section where Lyle Lyseng and his mother Bertha now live.

We are told that Mrs. Lunde had a boat which she rowed down Stoney Creek to get to visit Mrs. Lomnes.

Magnus Janson homesteaded SE ¼ 36-48-21. Lunde purchased the C.P.R. quarter across the road at 80¢ per acre and that included the oil rights.

Lyseng History 1824-1981

Knut Engebret Lyseng and Marit, Engebrets' daughter, Kolstad, were both born in Valdres, Norway and immigrated to the United States in 1868 on a sailing vessel, the Hannah Par. They were badly battered by a storm and were rescued by a fishing vessel and landed at Limerick, Ireland, where they waited while their ship was repaired and refitted. Some of their belongings were lost but Marit managed to save her precious spinning wheel. After several weeks the party landed at Quebec then went by train and boat to Wisconsin and later crossed the Mississippi River to Mineola Township, Goodhue County, where they stayed for awhile with Knut's brother Elling Engebretson, and family.

Knut however had four sons, seven children, all

born in Valdres, Norway, and in order to get them established moved to the Clinton, Minnesota, area where a Lyseng settlement was built up. Here another daughter was born, Mathea, in 1870, and here the family grew up, married and established homes and raised families.

In 1901 western Canada was attracting settlers by offering homestead land at \$10.00 per quarter. The second youngest daughter Martina had married Gilbert O. Hendrickson, and they had seven children at that time. G. O. Hendrickson and Martina along with her parents Knut E. and Marit E. Lyseng decided to immigrate to Canada. Knut E. filed on a homestead N.W. ¼ 48-21-W4, which was the one G.O. had arranged for, thus leaving G.O. free to file on another, which he did. A small house was built for the parents who lived there for some years. They then lived with various members of the family. Their last years were spent with the third son Knut K. and his wife Anne Lyseng. Marit died in June, 1909, and Knut E. in January 1917 following a fall at the church in which he sustained a fractured hip. Both are buried at the Scandia Cemetery at Armena.

Knut E. Lyseng was skilled in working with his hands. He made bells of every size and shape. He fashioned rocking horses for grandchildren out of tree trunks. At least one of these is still used in the home of a great-grandson, Bruce Hendrickson. He carved bowls and ladles, used in butter making, out of lengths of tree trunks cut in two and carved out. The writer has been told that Grandpa (Knut E.) used to sit and read the Bible, in Norwegian, of course, while the others went quietly about their work. It was also the custom to have daily family devotions.

Marit was a skilled knitter her specialty being a beautifully designed ladies glove. She was also in demand as a midwife.

Knut and Marit had a family of eight children as follows: Albert, Eric, and Knut K., Marit Anderson, Randine Hong, Elias, Martina Hendrickson and Mathea Hendrickson. All but two, Marit Anderson and Elias moved to Canada. All of the children were born in Norway except Mathea who was born in the U.S. The history of the children follows, those who immigrated to Canada being given in some detail.

Albert E. Lyseng and Ragnhild Braaten Story written by Esther Wenig

Albert E. Lyseng, eldest son of Knut E. and Marit E. Lyseng, was born in Valdres, Norway in 1853. He came to the U.S. with his parents in 1868 and after many hardships along the way, eventually settled at Clinton, Minnesota.

Like their parents before them, Albert and his brothers and sisters wanted more and cheaper land



Knut E. (1824-1917) and Marit (Kolstad) Lyseng (1828-1909).



Albert and Ragnild Lyseng, 1901. Back, Standing: Mary (Pederson). Middle: Henry, 6 yrs., Father, Alfred, 7 yrs., Mother. Front: Ludwig, 5 yrs., and Mabel, 3 yrs. Missing: Anna, Carl, Edwin, and Emil.

for their growing families. In 1901 they came by train to Wetaskiwin, North West Territories, where a land guide showed them several surrounding districts. As a result, land was chosen in what is now the Armena district.

Shortly before they were to move to Canada in 1902, Albert's wife Ragnild (Olson) died in childbirth, so sadly the family had to leave her behind in a cemetery near Clinton. They had eleven children but only seven grew to maturity. These were: Mary (1882), Anna (1884), Carl E. (1886), Edwin (1889), Emil E. (1892), Alfred E. (1894) and Ludwig (1897).

The land which Albert had chosen in 1901 had a rich hay meadow on it so presumably would provide plentiful hay for his stock. However, when the family moved up in 1902 this area was all under water and fish were everywhere. They could be scooped into a pail with a pitch fork! The Calgary Power and Imperial Oil have taken over this land in recent years.

Albert was also a man with true pioneer spirit, mastering all trades such as sawing lumber, carpentering, blacksmithing, rope making, had his own feed mill, was a veterinarian, mechanic and butcher and whatever else was needed. Being short of horses the first couple of years a horse and an ox were teamed together to plow the land.

Albert spent all but the last couple years of his life on his original home quarter. Then he spent many years with his son Emil and family who then owned the land. He died at the home of his son Carl in 1931.

Carl Edward Lyseng

Carl Edward Lyseng was the eldest son of Albert and Ragnild Lyseng and came to Canada with his father, brothers and sisters in 1902. His mother passed away in the United States before the family left. He filed for a homestead on the SE¼ 4-20-W4 on September 4, 1907 and was granted same on November 19, 1907. Carl and his brother Edwin each purchased eighty acres of an adjoining quarter.

In 1908 he married Carrie Rosendahl, who had also come with her parents from the States, about the same time as the Lyseng family. They had six daughters; Angelina, Ruby, Mabel, Gladys, Claudia and Doris.

Carrie was active in the community, boarded the school teacher, and was president of the Scandia Ladies Aide at the time of her death in 1926 at the early age of thirty-seven and a half years.

She and her sister-in-law Mary Pederson owned a loom together on which many yards of rag rugs were woven. Carl and Carrie had a knitting machine and Carl knit many stocking lengths for the family and others.

He was secretary-treasurer for the Lyseng school for many years. He maintained several miles of road after rains using four horses on the maintainer. This took ten to twelve hours. He looked after the pound for stray animals. He and his brothers did many family and neighborhood projects such as threshing, haying, wood sawing and butchering.

Carl enjoyed baseball. He often refereed at basketball games for the school.

Grandma Rosendahl made her home with Carl and Carrie for many years.

A couple of years after Carrie's death Carl and his daughters, who shared responsibilities of keeping the home together, moved to Camrose. Carl worked at the Pioneer garage, until his retirement.

Grandpa Albert Lyseng spent his last years in Camrose with Carl and Family. After Carl's retirement he made his home with his daughter and son-in-law, Mabel and Russell Roose. He passed away in 1954.

Angelina Clarice was born on September 3, 1909. She attended Lyseng school until grade nine which she took along with a commercial course at the Camrose Lutheran College. She was part of the office staff at C. Lowrys' store for three years. She married Randolph Dean May 24, 1930 and later moved to Entwistle. Randolph took up farming and also worked as a sawyer in the mills in the winter.

Due to Randolph's ill health they retired from the farm and Angelina went back to office work for Imperial Oil.

They have a son Gerald and a daughter Iris.



Angelina, Mabel, Gladys, Ruby Lyseng.

Randolph passed away in September 1959.

Iris married Allan Shelton and they farm at Peers, Alberta. They have one daughter Darla, two sons, Randolph and Tyron. Darla is married to Dann Vanderwolf. Gerald makes his home with his mother in Entwistle.

Ruby completed her high school in Camrose after finishing her public schooling at the Lyseng school. She was employed with Alberta Government Telephones. She married Fred Gabourie in 1936, who farmed in the Duhamel district, later moving to their own farm south east of Ohaton where they resided until retirement then moved into Camrose.



Ruby, Angelina, Claudia, Mabel, Carl, Gladys, and Doris Lyseng.

They have a son Patrick. He married Verna Pederson and they took over the family farm. They have two daughters, Peggy and Janelle and one son Merlin.

Their daughter Fay was on the office staff at St. Marys Hospital and married Ben Wilhauk who owns and operates a slaughter house. They have three children and live in Leduc. Their daughters are Kathy and Tammie. Their son James is a field supervisor on a pipeline. He married Roxanne Sims and they reside in Camrose.

Mabel received her education at the Lyseng school. When her mother passed away she helped keep house for her Dad and sisters, later clerking at Brodys and Younges Stores in Camrose. She married Russell Roose in 1936 and lived on her Dad's farm for a couple years until Russell's Dad passed away. They then moved to that farm east of Camrose and resided there until Russell's death in 1968. Mabel now resides in Camrose. They have three daughters — Delores, a school teacher who taught at Armena for one year. She married Al Harrison and they reside in Kelowna where Al is Administrator for the Regional District of Central Okanagan. They have three sons, Thomas, Douglas, and Geoffrey. Myrna, a registered nurse, married Leslie Dushinski who is a surgeon specializing in Urology. They live in Edmonton and have three sons and one daughter, John, Kenneth, Christopher and Karen.

Louise — Bachelor of Science in Household Economics married Thomas Maguire a professor at the University of Alberta. They have a son Patrick and a daughter Kerry. They live at Millet.

Gladys took most of her public schooling at the Lyseng school, then moved to Camrose where she completed her high school. She remained at home until her marriage to Denison Barnes in 1936 then they made their home in Calgary. They later moved to Edmonton and then Vancouver. Denison worked as accountant and in the later years as bursar at the Vancouver School of Theology. Gladys worked for twenty six years for Canada Trust Company in the Corporate Trust Department. They both are now enjoying retirement.

Claudia attended the Lyseng school to grade five. When she and her father and sisters moved to Camrose she completed her schooling there. In 1942 Claudia married Harold Williams and they farmed in the Duhamel district until 1973. At that time they moved to Camrose where Harold is greenkeeper at the Camrose Golf Course. They have three sons, Keith, Gene, Neal and one daughter Loveigh. Keith is an industrial arts teacher. He married Violet Tchir. They reside in Edson where Keith is presently a contractor building homes. They have a daughter Tami and a son Troy. Gene married Marie McClure

and they live in the Duhamel district on the family farm. They have three sons, Todd, Steven, Timothy and one daughter Sheryne. Loveigh married Alick McArthur and reside on their farm in the Kelsey area. They have a son Donald and a daughter Judy Ann. Neal married Yolande Gignac and live in Camrose. He is a travel consultant with the Alberta Motor Association. They have a son Ryan.

Doris the youngest daughter was born in 1921 on the farm in the Armena district. She took all her schooling in Camrose. She married Alexander (Don) Kembel. They have four daughters and three sons. Gloria Watson now a widow, has two sons Danny and Dav.J. They live at Pine Lake, Alberta. Wayne Kembel is a plumber and gas fitter and lives in Surrey, British Columbia. Roger Kembel married Beth Hall. He is a Sergeant in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. They have two daughters, Lisa and Sherrie. They reside at Maple Ridge, British Columbia. Karen married Ken Hall. They have two daughters, Kelly and Laura. They have recently moved to Armstrong, British Columbia where they are broiler chicken farming. Dianne married John Livesey. They have two daughters, Shannon and Carrie Ann, two sons David and Jeffrey. They live in Surrey, British Columbia. Kenneth is presently living in Red Deer waiting to re-join the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Jo-Ann married Brian Grozell. They have three sons Jason, Ryan and Robert. Brian is a welder and they reside in Langley, British Columbia.

Don's career as an officer in the Armed Forces for twenty seven years has taken the family many places in Canada and a three and half year term in England.

In 1965 they returned to Vancouver where Don retired from the Armed Forces in 1967. That same year he accepted a position with the federal government until retiring in 1980. Doris worked for Simpson Sears as a Department Manager for several years before retiring in 1980. Doris and Don are presently residing in Langley, British Columbia and looking forward to some travelling in the coming years.

Edwin Lyseng

Edwin Lyseng (1889-1977) came to Alberta from Minnesota with his father Albert and family in 1902. In young adulthood Edwin took a homestead near Wilhelmina Church on S.W.¼, Sec. 18, T. 49, R. 20. W of 4th, and lived there for a short time. The land is now owned by E. M. Johnson.

In 1916 Edwin married Nettie Ditmanson (1898-1921) and they set up farming just east of his father's land. This quarter had been homesteaded by George Fraser.

Edwin and Nettie had one daughter, Esther (1917) who married Joseph Wenig in 1937. They had eight



Edwin and Nettie (Ditmanson) Lyseng, 1916.

children, Rupert, Elwood, Lorenz, Linda, Rita, Eileen, Alois, and Conrad. There are twenty grandchildren.

After Nettie passed away, Edwin rented his land but was always around at threshing time to help operate the tractor and separator which he shared with his brothers Carl and Emil. Edwin worked for a



Ready for winter — Edwin Lyseng's wood pile.

while at the Pioneer Garage in Camrose and it was during this time that he met the former Rosie Skogman and they were married in 1929. They moved to Edwin's farm and started farming again just when the depression hit hard. They bought a cow for \$250.00 that would be worth \$20.00 six months later. Edwin often mentioned selling 14 market pigs for a total of \$42.00 less trucking.

A few years later Edwin and Rosie rented out the farm and bought a smaller farm near Winfield. As the years went by they needed to be near a doctor so sold this farm and bought a house in Edmonton. Edwin did carpenter work in Edmonton and Winfield.

Rosie passed away in 1952 and Edwin then retired in Camrose. Rosie had two children by a previous marriage, namely, William Carter, a deceased veteran, and Vivian who married John Thrasher. They live in Camrose. Vivian and John have four children, Dennis, Karen, Judy, and Allan. They have eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Emil Lyseng

Emil (1892-1963) was ten years old when he came to Alberta from Minnesota with his father and brothers and sisters in 1902 and settled on the farm where he was to spend the rest of his life.

In addition to learning the various trades required by a farmer, Emil learned to bake bread, wash and mend clothes, knit socks, etc., so was a great help to his sister Mary who was left in charge of household duties after their mother passed away.

Emil married Martha Ditmanson (1896-1969) in 1915. They lived on his father's farm and his father Albert and brother Alfred continued to live with them.

Neighbors liked to gather at the home of Emil and Martha to enjoy sing-songs with Emil playing the

violin and his daughter Elsie at the organ. Sunday afternoons young and old would join in to play ball. Some would pitch horseshoes. Martha never complained about sharing her home, and made donuts and ginger snaps which disappeared like magic.

Emil was chairman of the Lyseng School Board for several years before the school closed in 1944. In those days the Country School Boards chose the teachers, hired the student caretakers and controlled the school's activities. Social gatherings such as pie, tie or basket socials, programs and picnics were held during the year and everyone participated. If anyone got wind of what the teacher's pie or basket looked like you can be sure her boy friend had to pay a fancy price for it when it was auctioned off.

Six children were born to Martha and Emil. On one occasion the midwife barely made it on time and another time Martha just arrived home from a church picnic. The children's names are, Elsie, Richard, Luella, Arthur, Mildred and Wilbert.



Arthur, Wilbert, Richard, Mildred, Luella, Oscar, Emil, Martha Lyseng. 1963.



Martha, Emil, Edwin, Alfred Lyseng and Mary Pederson.

I was the oldest of the family. Norwegian was the first language I learned. We all received our education at Lyseng school with nine grades in one class room. The old pot belly coal and wood stove sometimes decided not to burn, so the school wasn't always warm. The girls never wore jeans, so woolen socks and felt boots were the thing.

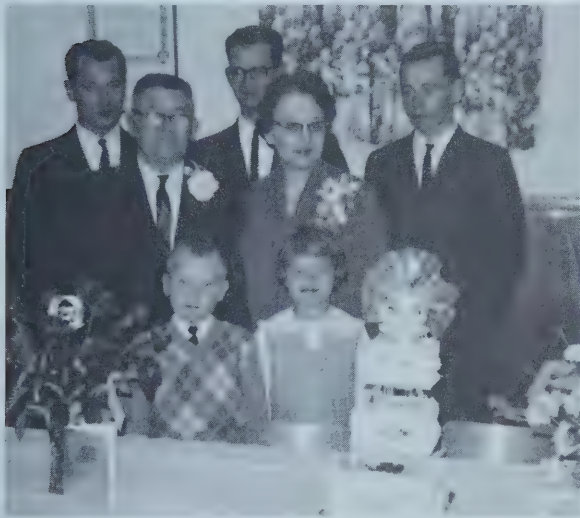
I had to help mother with the cooking as soon as I could reach the stove. My dad was always ready with a little praise for me. I wanted to make it even better then. He gave us the encouragement we needed.

Grandpa Lyseng stayed with us. When the weather got too cold or the roads blocked, he would

always gather us to hear the lesson for the day from the Bible in Norwegian on Sundays. We all dressed up for Sunday whether we went anywhere or not.

I can remember one time we were camping in the tent at Hastings Lake. It rained a lot that week. When I came to put my Sunday dress on, it had shrunk! The dresses then were made of crepe, not fortrel. They could not be washed in water so we used hi-test gas and hung them on the line to air out.

For a little extra money in the summer we would snare or trap gophers and collect magpie eggs for one cent apiece. If we were lucky we could make a few extra cents, maybe a free show. I have done several jobs over the years. Hairdressing, when a wash and set was seventy-five cents and house work at ten dollars a month. I have also clerked for awhile.



Oscar Nielson family.

In 1940, I married Oscar Nielson (1906-1971). He was born in Denmark. At the age of eighteen, he immigrated to Biggar, Saskatchewan, to be with his sister. She later returned to Denmark and he took over the farm. He farmed there until the depression hit in the thirties. He took his few belongings in a horse-drawn caravan and settled in the Hay Lakes district. He worked at several jobs, one as a carpenter. It was here we met as I was helping with the cooking. We were married in 1940. We farmed in the Camrose district for a few years, then moved to Camrose. Oscar was employed with the Department of Health for fifteen years until his health was failing. After a lengthy illness he passed away March 4, 1971.

There were five children:

Donald (1942-1968) married Carol Wancho. They had two children, Donna and Deborah. Donald passed away at the age of twenty-six years in a boat-

ing mishap at Jasper. He was the manager of the N.A.D. pool in Jasper.

Dennis (1944) married Gail Bunch. They had two children, Troy and Angela. Dennis has been in the dry walling business for fifteen years.

Larry (1950) married Valerie Moore. They have two children, Leandra and Erin. Larry is a salesman for John Deere Ltd.

Karen (1959), twin, married Norman Knoll. She has been employed by Safeway for a number of years.

Kevin (1959), twin, is still at home. He is also in the drywall business.

They all live in the Camrose district.

Luella (Lyseng) Skognes

Luella the third oldest was born on the farm August 16, 1921. Emil had gone out to harvest the crop, knowing that it was soon time for a new little bundle to arrive, so he kept his eye towards the house. If a stick with a red rag came up above the clothes line, he was to hurry home. As soon as he noticed the stick had gone up, he unhitched the horses and hurried home. He went for a mid-wife (Mrs. Hendrickson) and shortly after Luella was born.

At the age of seven, she started Lyseng School, Norwegian was the only language she knew, as that was all we spoke at home. Luckily they had a teacher who understood Norwegian, so things worked out.

After school jobs included washing lamp and lantern chimneys, which became black every night from burning coal oil. Saturdays were for polishing all the family shoes, putting them all in a neat row, all ready for church on Sunday. Shoes were used all week and nicely polished for Sunday.

The family ironing was a lot different then, three sad irons were heated on the stove, as each cooled another one was ready on the stove to use.

School and church picnics were always a lot of fun. Twenty-five cents were given to each child, and from this we bought ice cream for five cents a cone, and a chocolate bar for five cents too. We usually had money over for sometime later.

In 1939 at the Boys and Girls Camp, Camrose, Luella met Oscar Skognes of Round Hill. This was a yearly event for farm boys and girls from fifteen to eighteen years of age. After many visits to the Lyseng home, Oscar brought his sister Ruth along. Richard became interested, and the foursome kept the Round Hill Armena road open for a couple of years. Oscar and Luella were married in Scandia Church on November 7, 1942. They farmed north of Round Hill from 1942 to 1948 and then moved to



Allan, Carol, Philip, Marvin. Luella and Oscar Skognes 25th Anniversary, 1967.

Camrose, where Oscar was employed with the Department of Public Health. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Marvin, born in 1945, married Carol Cryderman of Camrose. They live in Spokane, Washington. He is District Manager for Globe Ticket Company. They have a son Marty and a daughter Jodie.

Philip, born in 1947, married Marion McCourt of Kitscotty. They live in Campbell River, British Columbia. He is Civil Engineering Technologist Design Supervisor. They have a daughter Christine and a son Grant.

Carol, born in 1953, is married to Allan Banack. He is meat inspector and they reside in Camrose. They have two daughters, Corrie and Nola.

Allen, born in 1955, lives in Camrose and is employed at the steel mill there.

Oscar was employed at Rosehaven for thirty-three years, until his sudden passing November 18, 1980 at sixty years of age.

Richard Lyseng (1919 —)

Richard helped on the family farm. He was always mechanically inclined. He became a mechanic by trade and worked at Dick's Garage for many years. In 1941 he was called to the army. He took his training in Camrose, the headquarters being where Rosehaven is now.

In 1943 he married Ruth Skognes (1922). They lived in Victoria for awhile as he was stationed with the army there. The war ceased just as he was to be sent overseas. They returned to Camrose and mechanic duties again.

In 1955, they moved to Cour d'Alene, Idaho, where they still reside. He is employed at the Oldsmobile and Cadillac garage there.



Richard Lyseng family.

They have two children — Fay Marie (1948) and Sharon Darlene (1954). There are four grandchildren. They all reside in the United States.

Arthur Lyseng (1924-)

Arthur stayed on the family farm. He was also battery operator in the Armena district for several years. He then went to Fort Saint John to work in the oil fields for five years. It was here he met Marge McMullen. They were married in 1966. Then they moved to Entwistle for one year. When his dad passed away in 1963 they moved back to the home place where they still reside. Art has worked with the Department of Health for a number of years. They have one son Peter who goes to school at Hay Lakes.

Mildred (Lyseng) Bjorgum

I was the fifth of six children born to Emil and Martha Lyseng. My first picture was taken a few months after my birth beside a brand new model T Ford. I was held by my Dad who was the owner of the car. The Ford had celluloid windows, and would be a mint today if it still existed.

At four years of age I was very ill with pneumonia and was fortunate to have Anna Nordthorpe, R. N. from Camrose, take care of me for two weeks, nursing me back to health. Mustard plasters were the only remedy then as it was before the day of penecillin.

Most of my schooling was at Lyseng School where I finished my grade nine. Most children would complain about eating cold lunches at noon but I would envy them just the same. Living so close to the school meant that we'd have to go home every day for dinner. In the winter it was work to dress up with boots and coats to go home and then maybe get the extra bonus of washing up all the dishes. In the summer it meant to miss out on the noon ball games.

My first paid job was to carry a pail of water to

school every day for five cents a pail. My brothers used to go early to light the fire in the furnace.

Mother was always busy cooking for us six children, my uncle and many other relatives stopping in. I can remember her scrubbing clothes all day on the scrub board, and putting the white clothes in the boiler to scald nice and white. She baked all the bread, which was mixed the evening before and covered good with blankets beside the stove until morning. Then she added the flour. We had a big wooden churn complete with both a hand lever and a foot treadle, so if it was my job to make butter it would take long enough to read most of a library book. Another thing Mother made was "preem ost" a brown cheese made from milk and rennet. It seemed everybody but me loved that cheese! One of the most interesting things she made was bar soap. She started out with tallow, and added some lye and it got to be good soap.

Many things have happened during the past fifty and more years. Going through the depression years with some bad hail storms make one appreciate the good days we now have. We seldom think about what it would be like to live without electricity and gas.

After finishing grade ten I was fortunate in being able to attend Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose for three years, from which I graduated in 1947.

Lloyd Bjorgum and I were married and lived on his boyhood farm by Kingman for thirty-two years. There our six children were born and raised. Our first two years of marriage were without the conveniences of electricity so were happy when that was available. As much as we enjoyed living on the farm, with all the hard work, Lloyd used to often say, "I have lived here all my life — fifty-nine years — and it's sure funny if there can't be some other place to live too." No way could we move to a noisy, big city after living on a quiet farm all our lives. Everything seemed to open up for us to move to a quiet little town called Rosebud in 1980, (only one hundred miles south). Here we can find time to do things that we have always wanted to do. Our weekends are free from chores so we can travel. I can spend many hours in quilting and fancy work, while Lloyd can enjoy more carpentering and visiting than ever before. Our only child left with us is Sheldon, a teen-ager, and he can travel up and down hills on his motorbike. We live close to the school he will attend during high school so he is equally happy. With the Post Office in our home, we get to meet more people than anyone else. With all the Camrose people living here we can rightly call Rosebud a "little" Camrose. To sum it all up, God has been good to us and to Him we give the thanks.



Lloyd Bjorgum family, March, 1968.

Mildred and Lloyd had six children:

Anne, born in 1950, married Larry Knutson in 1971. They live in Edmonton and have two sons, Shane Aklan (1976) and Cory Neil (1977).

Grace, born in 1952, married Bryan Hammer in 1974. They live in Edmonton.

Paul, born in 1954, married Elsie Prochnau in 1974. They now live on a farm in the Boyle area. They have two sons, Andy Jason (1976) and Eric Arnel (1978).

Fern, born in 1956, married Paul Wisoff in 1974. They live in Didsbury and have two sons, Colin Marek (1979) and James Charles (1980).

Janet born in 1957, married Grant Manchur in 1975. They live in Red Deer and have two daughters, Cindy Leigh (1978) and Jennifer Lynn (1981).

Sheldon, born in 1967, is the youngest of the family and is at home attending school in Rosebud.

Wilbert Lyseng (1933-)

Wilbert was the youngest of the family and stayed at home until he married Sigrun Birkeland in 1957. They then had their own house on the family farm. He later purchased the place from J. Cardiff, which was formerly the Ditmanson's place.

He has also worked in the wood working department at Rosehaven and still is employed there.

They have three children. Kurt (1958) and Sonja (1959) who both live in Camrose. Dale (1972) is at home.

Alfred E. Lyseng

Alfred (1894-1973) came to Canada with his father Albert, and his brothers and sisters in 1902. He

lived with his family and when his brother Emil, was married, continued to live with him on the home place until Emil passed away in 1963. Alfred then moved to live with his niece Mildred, Mrs. Lloyd Bjorgum. He stayed there until 1967 when he was admitted to Bethany Home in Camrose, where he resided until his death in 1973.



Ludwig Lyseng, Oscar Ditmanson. Fred Albrecht (teacher at Lyseng School).

Ludwig Lyseng

Ludwig (1897-1931) was the youngest of the Albert Lyseng boys to take up land in the Camrose-Armena area. He settled on the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 33-47-20-W4, which he purchased from the C.P.R. Ludwig never married. He was a friendly neighborhood bachelor and with his passing at the age of 34, he was missed by many. The land is now owned by Lois and Zeb Brewer of Camrose.

Erik and Berit Lyseng as told to Herman Atema

Erik was born in Norway in 1855, second child of Knut Engebretson and Marit Lyseng. As a young boy of thirteen he emigrated with his family to the U.S. and eventually settled near Clinton, Minnesota. In 1885 Eric married Berit Brekke, who sometime before had also emigrated from Norway. By the turn of the century they were established in farming and had six children, three girls and three boys (Mathilda

(Tillie), Clara, Nellie, Eddie, Abel and Martin). In those days boys almost naturally would follow their father's vocation and thus in this case become farmers. So with this in mind no doubt Eric was looking for more land. Land prices in Minnesota had escalated to around \$35.00 per acre. This apparently was considered quite high and with free homestead land available in Canada, Eric together with his father and brothers decided this was the answer.

So early in 1901 Eric and his father came to Edmonton and looked for land in the immediate area but this had already been well taken up. They returned to Minnesota, but determined to acquire land they returned that summer together with Eric's brothers Albert and Knut. Ed Thompson, the land man, showed them land as far away as Vermillion. On the way back they stayed at the stopping house of Thor Grue which was one-half mile north of the present hamlet of Armena. They were impressed with this area and decided to settle here. The families moved up by railroad. It was a somewhat hazardous journey, taking three weeks to cover the distance from Minnesota to Wetaskiwin. They were delayed several days at Minot, North Dakota because of a bridge washout. Eric had two boxcars of personal effects and machinery. North of Medicine Hat an emergency stop by the train caused the front end to go out of one box car, necessitating reloading. On arrival at Wetaskiwin they had to move the rest of the way by team and wagons. Eric bought the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 8-48-20 and built up the farmstead here. It is now occupied by a grandson, Malcolm Lyseng. More land was homesteaded and bought nearby and cattle became an important part of the farming enterprise. A record book of the purebred shorthorn cattle is still in existence and sales to many farmers in the Central Alberta area are recorded in it. Earliest record is 1904 and continues to 1921. In 1904 they were blessed with one more son, Ernest.

Eric saw the need for a church school and was one



Eric Lyseng home.



Eric Lyseng family, 1907. Clara, Tillie, Eddie, Nellie, Abel, Martin, Berrit, Ernest, Eric.

of those who helped to establish the Camrose Lutheran College. He was a good family man and took pride in himself and family, enjoying to see them well dressed and appreciating the good things of life.

Eric did not live to an old age. He died in 1923 being 68 years old. Berit moved to Camrose a few years later and lived with daughters Tillie and Nellie. In the mid-forties they moved to Vancouver, where she died in 1952. They are both buried in Scandia Cemetery, Armena.

The eldest of the seven children Matilda (Tillie) never married and stayed at home. She took pleasure in playing the piano. Tillie died in 1960 and was buried in Vancouver.

Clara married Peder Pederson and Nellie married Goodman Norvick. Their stories we can read elsewhere in this book. Also appearing in this saga are the stories of Edward (Eddie) who married Johanna Berg, Abel who married Cora Rasmussen and Martin who married Dagne Lofgren. Ernest married Lila Craig and lived at Grimshaw. He was involved in the hardware business. They had two children, Don-

ald and Donna Beth. Ernest passed away in 1963. Lila still lives in Grimshaw.

Edward (Eddie) and Johannah Lyseng

Eddie was born in Minnesota in 1890. He came to the Armena district with his parents Eric and Berrit Lyseng in 1902. In 1920 he married Johannah (Hannah) Berg of the Camrose North district.

They farmed for some years in the Busk school district on the N.W. ¼ 34, 47, 21. Hannah taught school during those years.

Eddie had the misfortune to lose the sight of one eye. This occurred when a stone flew up while he was on his way to Camrose in his touring car. He suffered much pain and many years later had an operation to relieve this.

Another frightening incident he experienced was having the horse he was riding gored to death by a mad bull. Apparently he lost no time in having the animal destroyed.

In the late twenties they gave up farming and moved to Wetaskiwin where he sold Rawleigh prod-

The Abel Lyseng Family by Marion Ostrem

Abel Lyseng (son of Erik) and Cora Rasmussen (daughter of Rasmus) were married at the Rasmussen home on November 27, 1919. It was a double ceremony also uniting Cora's sister Sophia to Nels Grue. The weddings were held in a large tent on a very cold and snowy day.



Eddie and Hanna Lyseng, January, 1920.



Abel and Cora Lyseng, 1919.



Eddie and Hanna, Cyril, Tancred Lyseng, 1933.

ucts. This seemed to fit in well with his personality as he liked to meet people. He had a good sense of humor. Hannah continued teaching school.

They were blessed with four children: Tancred (Ted) now living in Florida, U.S.A., Cyril of Victoria, B.C., Enid, Mrs. Jim Anderson who lives in Stettler, and Paul of Edmonton.

Eddie passed away in 1964. Hannah died some years later. They are both buried in Wetaskiwin.



Abel Lyseng family, 1944. Seated: Abel and Cora. Standing, Left to Right: Eunice, Marion (Mrs. Don Ostrem), Berdeen (Mrs. Elmer Link), Alton, Joyce (Mrs. Chant), Ruby (Mrs. Herman Atema), Audrey, and Gerald.

My parents lived on a farm in the Dinant area for two years. They then moved to a quarter section of land near Armena.

Eight children were born to them:

1920 — Ruby A. — married Herman Atema. They live in the Armena area. Her story appears elsewhere.

1923 — Berdeen C. — married Elmer Link. They live in Mississauga, Ontario. He is employed by Gulf Oil. Their children are: Roland, Connie, Brenda, David.

1926 — Joyce E. — married Austin Chant. They live near Camrose. He is a retired farmer. Their children are: Judy, Linda, Deanna, Gregory.

1929 — Marion V. — married Donald Ostrem. They live in Edmonton. He is employed by Ostrem Chemical Co. Their children are: Karen, Marilyn, Thomas.

1930 — Alton E. — married Nola Thompson. They live in Edmonton. He is employed by the City of Edmonton. Their children are: James, Debra, Kathrine, Christine.

1933 — Eunice C. — married John Morris. They live in San Diego, California. He is employed by Western Airlines. Their children are: James, Timothy, Cheryl, Allan.

1936 — Audrey J. — married Donald Davis. Audrey and her daughter Patricia live in Prince George, B.C.

1940 — Gerald A. — married Joyce McQuary. He is employed by Ostrem Chemical Co. They live in Vancouver, B.C. Their children are: Shari, Michael.

My parents were faithful members of Scandia Lutheran Church. The church was very much a part of our lives. The Sunday School picnics, usually held at Miquelon Lake, were a highlight of the summer. We also looked forward to the Ladies' Aid picnics especially the huge bunches of bananas and home-made ice cream.

As children there were few toys so we entertained ourselves. I remember tying twine around trees to stake out our play houses and then visiting one another's houses for mud pies. In the winter we would slide down the straw piles on cardboard boxes, skate on the sloughs and dig tunnels through the snow drifts. It was always interesting to see what neighborhood young men would be at the skating parties on Skaret's slough.

Threshing time was a very interesting time for children and adults. Although we were expected to do more chores then — it was worth it to watch the threshing machine, steam engine and hay racks at work.

Christmas was a season we all looked forward to. The church had a big tree complete with lighted



Alton, Marion, and Joyce Lyseng riding on stone-boat.

candles. There was always a Sunday School program, treat bags and a new dress. Christmas also meant our yearly box of Japanese oranges. That was a waited for treat! Our family celebrated Christmas eve with a special supper, carol singing and gift exchange. With so many of us sometimes the gifts were quite small.

We went to Lyseng School. It was a one room school with grades one to nine. We drove with horse and buggy or sleigh. Sometimes in the winter the drifts were so big my Dad would go ahead of us on horseback to break a trail. In 1941 Lyseng School closed and a new two room school opened in Armena. In the spring many hours were spent practicing solos, duets and recitations for the school festival held in Camrose. Our school won some first prizes too!

I remember riding bareback to school to write a grade nine exam, when near the old Scandia church something spooked the horse and I landed heavily in the ditch. Luckily Ivan Lyseng came by in his car, picked me up and took me home. The next day I had to make up the exam.

My Mom would save all bits of red paper and ribbon during the year to help us make valentines for the valentines exchange at school. I think she enjoyed helping us and thanks to her good ideas we had some nice ones.

My Dad's brother Eddy, was a Watkins sales man and used to stop over night at our house on his travels. He and my Dad used to stay up late at night and play checkers. My uncle had a very hearty laugh and you could always tell who was winning by his laugh or lack of it!

In the winter my Dad and several neighborhood men would leave early in the morning with horse and bob sleighs for Round Hill to get coal for heating. They would come home tired, cold and hungry after a long day. Money was scarce — and sometimes he would haul an extra load to Armena to help pay for



Busy, Abel, mending shoes; Clara, working on a star rug; Eddie, mending harness.

groceries. I was told he once sold a wagon load of oats for \$4.75.

Our first car was a 1926 Essex. Although it was a welcome addition, it sat beside the granary most of the time for lack of license plates or gasoline.

My brother Alton had a trap line, as did many other boys in the community. He used to catch weasels and in the spring, muskrats. The skins were sold.

I remember having to get the cows for milking and hoping they hadn't wandered far enough so I would have to walk thru' a thick woods in the pasture. I never knew whether to be quiet and run as fast as I could or sing and yell and walk. Either way I was sure I would never make it!

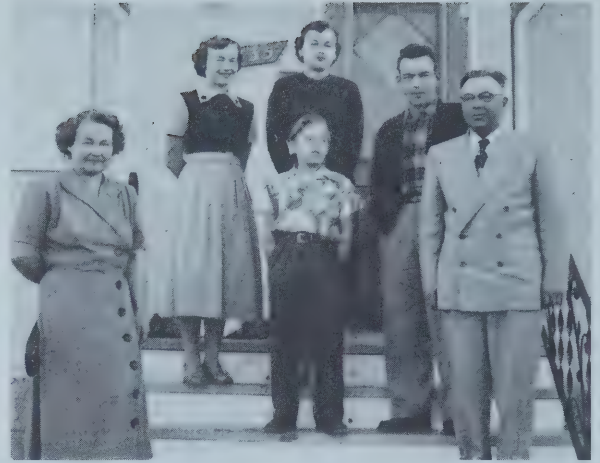
With six girls in the family, there were young men coming courting. I remember one date especially, when one of my sisters and I double dated two young men from the community and they sang to us "Honey Let Me Hold Your Hand".

In 1947 our farm was sold to Bert Stollery and we moved to Camrose. My Dad worked with the post office from 1947 to 1957. He was in poor health and died after major surgery in 1957. He was buried in the Scandia Church cemetery. My Mother lives in an apartment in Camrose and is still enjoying good health.

Martin and Dagny Lyseng

Martin and Ernest were joint owners of the Erik Lyseng home place. In 1927, Ernest decided he'd had enough of fighting weeds so he sold his share to Martin and moved to Grimshaw and went into the hardware business. In the spring of 1929 Martin sold his farm to Arthur and Bill Skaret and went to join Ernest in the store at Grimshaw.

The depression came so Martin went back to the farm. That winter, he and his cousin, Edwin Hong, erected a saw mill. In the spring of 1930 they were busy sawing lumber from poplar logs. I was sup-



Martin Lyseng family by new house. Dianne, Barbara, Everald, Dagny, Malcolm, Martin Lyseng.

posed to burn the slab in my kitchen stove but all it produced was smoke, certainly no heat.

Martin and I had been married ten years before we had a crop because of dust storms, hail, and drought. I churned and printed butter and was lucky if I got seven cents a pound; I usually got six cents. A five gallon can of special cream brought about \$1.49.

We fed and sheltered for the night many men who rode the freight trains to Armena on their way to Dinant to look for work in the mines.

Martin and I were blessed with five children, Everald, Barbara, Diane, Marilyn, and Malcolm.



Barbara, Dianne, Everald, Malcolm, Marilyn Lyseng, 1965.

Everald married Jean Dahl. They have three children, Daryl, Perry, and Gaylene.

Barbara married Ron Waite. They had one son, Derek. Barbara passed away in 1968.

Diane married Marvin Sheperd of the R.C.M.P. They have two sons, Robert and Barry.

Marilyn passed away in 1948, at the age of ten years.

Malcolm, after graduating from the U. of A. with a B. Sc. in Agriculture, worked for the Federal Government for a year before working with Federated Co-op. He then decided to farm so he bought the Erik Lyseng home place. He married Lynn MacFarland and they have two sons, John and Andrew.

Ernest Lyseng

by Lila Lyseng

Ernest Oliver Lyseng was born June 18, 1904, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Erik K. Lyseng. He attended school and later farmed with his brother Martin.

In the fall of 1927 Ernest sold his share of the home place to Martin. Then, with his cousin Robert Lyseng, spent the winter in Vancouver.

In the spring of 1928, Jack Loveseth formerly of Camrose, was living in Grimshaw and contacted Ernest. As a result Ernest went to Grimshaw and was pleased with the small northern village. He then became a partner in a hardware store that had recently been opened by Frank Dones. This partnership lasted for over thirty years, until the hardware burned down in 1958. Ernest then became manager of a newly opened branch of Union Tractor.

I moved to Grimshaw in 1929 with my family where my father owned the General store. Ernest and I were married in 1933. Our son Donald was born in 1938, and at present is living in Grimshaw and working for a construction company. Our daughter Beth, lives in Calgary with her husband Glen Van Vorst, a member of the R.C.M.P. and their two sons Daryl and Darren.

Ernest passed away very suddenly with a heart attack in 1963 and is buried in the Grimshaw Cemetery.

He is well remembered in Grimshaw for his efforts in the building of the town. He served on Town Council and spent many hours working on the Arena and Curling rink.

I am still living in Grimshaw and always happy to see Armena and Camrose friends.

Knut K. Lyseng 1856-1932 and Anne Brekke 1861-1946

Knut K. Lyseng 1856-1932 and Anne Brekke 1861-1946

In 1901 Albert, Eric and Knut K. Lyseng, Knut's

eldest son Nels, and one Olaf Pederson made a trip up to Canada to the area where G. O. Hendrickson settled, later. They brought some cattle with them and left Nels and Olaf in charge of them the next winter. The three brothers took homesteads for themselves and several of their sons who were old enough, and purchased several quarters of land, in all some 4,000 acres. They then returned home and made the necessary plans to move their worldly goods and their families to the North West Territories the next spring. So it was that these hardy people pioneered for the second time!



Knut K. Lyseng — Anne (Brekke Lyseng), 1880.

Knut K. like his father Knut E. was handy with his hands, and was willing to try anything to make ends meet and to get ahead. He was a first rate blacksmith. He was also a carpenter and brought with him shingles, nails, plaster etc. with which to build a large two storied home in 1902 to house his family, which numbered ten at this time, one a son George having died as an infant. Two more children, Edna and Robert were Canadian born.

One story has it that the three brothers Albert, Erik and Knut were the first to arrive in the North West Territories and that they looked at land around Red Deer (Blind River Valley) first and many other sites before they bought land and took homesteads for themselves and sons. However the first family to settle was G.O. and Martine (Lyseng) Hendrickson. The first child to be born here was the eighth child, Helmer. The picture shows the log house the family lived in for some years before a large modern house was erected. In front, stands Helmer, born in 1902.

The K. K. Lysengs were hard working, hospitable people. One daughter-in-law once told me that for several years 17 people sat down to the long table three times a day for meals. We, with our modern small families and conveniences, can hardly realize what that meant, but then there were many hands to



Knut Lyseng family in 1901. Back, Left to Right: Carl, Mina, Nils, Martha, Edward. Centre: Alma, George, Knut, Anne, Anders. Front: Ole and Alice on lap of mother.

perform the needed tasks, and life was more simple in many ways. Knut's wife Anne spun wool for stockings, sweaters and mitts. She even wove cloth for some of the clothing. And the coffee pot was kept busy for family, friend or stranger who stopped by. They were people of deep faith and Knut donated land for the church and cemetery. His monetary gifts and labor were frequent, and many a minister or lay preacher found a welcome in this home.

Knut died in November 1932 and was buried next to his parents in Scandia Cemetery. Anne lived to be 85 and passed away November 1946, after a brief stay in Camrose Hospital, which was her first experience in hospital. She rests beside her husband in the Scandia Cemetery.

A brief history of each of the 13 children will follow. They were: Nels, Martha Knudtson, Mina Solheim, Carl, Edward, Anders, Alma Hoyme, Ole, George (died young), George, Alice Thomson, Edna Thomas, Robert.



Nils K. Lyseng family, 1927. Nils, Algar, Kenneth, Norma, Oline.

Nils K. Lyseng and Oline Broen by Norma (Lyseng) Dalen

Nils at the age of 20, immigrated to the North West Territories, Canada, from Clinton, Minnesota,

with his father Knut, uncles Albert and Erik and Olaf Pederson, in November 1901. They travelled by train to Wetaskiwin. They brought some stock along and Nils and Olaf were left to care for the animals that winter. The three brothers bought land and took homesteads for themselves and their sons who were old enough. They then returned home and made arrangements to move their belongings and their families to Canada in the spring of 1902.

Christian Broen and twelve year old Tony came to the same area in 1901, from Sheldon, North Dakota. Mrs. Broen had died some years earlier when the eleventh child was born. They were buried together. Oline, at the age of 18 came to be with her father and brother on November 3, 1901. Three others came later, Einer, Bertha (Mrs. Simon Grue) and Christine (Mrs. Albert Kringen).

Nils and Oline were married on June 11, 1903, following a regular service at Skandia Lutheran Church, by the Rev. A. E. Hanson. On the marriage certificate "Bittern Lake" was given as the address. Their witnesses were Nils' sister Martha and Oline's brother Einer. They often told of how following the service there was a picnic lunch and the usual Sunday afternoon ball game. It seems that the Lyseng parents had taken offence because Oline's father had not attended the wedding. The reason? He let Tony wear his suit so that he could be there with the other young people! They didn't each have a suit. Grandpa Broen had only meant well.

Nils and Oline established themselves on a farm five miles north west of what is now Camrose, in what became known as Camrose North, and later the Baldenstein School District. Nils worked with his Dad and brothers at clearing land, sawing wood and lumber, and all that went with pioneering those first years, sharing labor, horses and machinery. Nils' brother George, recalls that when a young boy he was often sent to stay with Oline while Nils was working at his Dad's place. Nils and Oline maintained an active and supporting membership in the Skandia Lutheran Church, Armena, with their three children, Kenneth, Algar and Norma being baptized and confirmed members there also. Oline passed away at the age of 68 years in 1951, and Nils at the age of 85 years in 1966. They are buried in the Scandia Cemetery at Armena. (Skandia is the original Norwegian spelling which now is anglicized to Scandia.)

Kenneth Lyseng and Hazel (Fransen) Lyseng

Kenneth, elder son of Nils and Oline, married Hazel Christine Fransen, twin daughter of Hannah and Ole Fransen, homesteaders in the Bawlf area.

They were married December 28, 1927 in Camrose. Their farm home two miles south east of Armena was their home for thirty years until Kenneth's passing in January 1958, at the age of 52 years. Soon Hazel and Noreen moved into Camrose. To Hazel and Kenneth were born six children: Jean Green, Norman, Avis Gerards, Harland, Lorna Miklusek and Noreen Anger. The four older children attended Lyseng School until 1941, when the Armena School was opened, Jean then being in grade seven, Norman grade six, Avis grade four, Harland grade two and Lorna just beginning; five in the buggy. The rail-road track became an excellent short cut and it was fun hiding in the culverts when the train went over or seeing who could walk the furthest on the rails. Kenneth was a very creative person designing and remodeling his home, always busy with some craft such as tanning hides, wood carving and lathe work. When Avis was teaching Sunday School one year, her father carved by hand a set of Old Testament figures. They were so realistic one could tell the character they represented Noah or Moses or any other.

Norman Lyseng and Doris (Mielke) Lyseng

Norman third child of Kenneth and Hazel married Doris Mielke of Camrose, living for a short while in the Armena area, then in New Norway, later moving to Innisfail, then to an acreage just east of Bowden, where he does a bit of farming and continues to work for Shell Oil. They have four children.

After graduating from C.L.C. and the University of Alberta, Avis taught at Round Hill, East Bittern Lake and Armena before going to California to the Lutheran Day School in North Hollywood. There she met and married Richard Gerards, a photographer, and they have three children and one grandchild.

Harland married Evelyn Holt of New Norway and worked as partsman for Loveseths in Edmonton, later moving to PWA where he is at present in management. They have two sons.

Lorna became a secretary after graduating from C.L.C. working for a time in Camrose. Later she married John Miklusek. They have three children and make their home in Prince George, B.C. Their eldest, Sheryl, attended C.L.B.I. in Camrose in 1980-81: The others are Carla and Darren.

The youngest child Noreen, graduated from C.L.C. and also did secretarial work there before marrying Bill Anger of Duhamel. They, with their two sons David and Roger, moved from Edmonton to New Sarepta where they operate "Parkland Lumber and Hardware".

Algar Lyseng and Vera (Throndson)

Lyseng

Nels and Oline Lyseng's second son was Algar. He was educated at Baldenstein School and C.L.C. He married Vera Throndson, daughter of Theodore and Ida Throndson, at Fridhem Lutheran Church, east of Armena, in 1937. They settled on the quarter just west of his father's home place. Their five children also all attended Baldenstein School, which was a center for community activities, ball games, picnics, programs. The Baldenstein Welfare Workers started during the war. After the war ended, they supported the Bethany Children's Home near Gwynne, donating money and assisting with mending, ironing and other chores. When school buses came into being, the Baldenstein School closed, and membership in the Welfare Workers dwindled so the few remaining members decided to devote their efforts to church work.

During the 1950's the Hutterites began making advances toward purchasing land for a "colony" in the area. They approached Algar, but since the issue was controversial, he called a "community meeting" at his place. Since a good number of his neighbors were opposed to having a settlement of this nature in the area, he turned it down. (The Hutterites have since purchased quite a large area within the community.)

In 1961, Algar purchased the Langbell Studio, and in 1962, the farm was sold to Ken Nyback, and the family moved into Camrose. After a couple of years, their oldest son David, took over as photographer, and in 1968 they moved to new premises (the former Brody store) and changed the name to "Lyseng Studios." Algar and Vera had a family of five children. Their story will be given briefly.



Algar Lyseng family. Shirley (at back), Merlin, Algar, Vera, David, Glen, Liane.

As already stated David took over the Photography section of the business. He took several courses and became a Master Photographer, and has done some beautiful work. David has won distinction in the photography business and has won many prizes and awards. In 1973 David married Patricia Yaeck of Camrose.

Algar and Vera's second son, Merlin, went into Electrical Engineering and is now employed in Calgary. He married Sharon Harke of Hay Lakes, in 1963 and they have two children, Darren and Susan.

Shirley Lyseng is a secretary employed at Camrose Lutheran College.

The third boy Glenn, took over the management of Lyseng Studios after his father's death. He married Edith Radomsky in 1975 and they have two children Jeremy James (J.J.) and Jennifer Ann.

The fifth child of Vera and Algar is Liane who married Stan Wahlstrom in 1970, and they have two children Kristi and Steven. They live in Wetaskiwin, where Stan is teaching school.

Algar had a heart attack when quite young, and another later when he passed away in 1972. The family business has been carried on by his sons and by his wife Vera who does tinting and framing of pictures. This family has been of much help in the work at Messiah Lutheran Church. Algar had held many of the positions available in the Church Council, on the Board of Regents of Camrose Lutheran College and also held offices in The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, Church Board, based in Saskatoon.

Norma married Harold Dalin. (see Dalin section for this)

Martha Lyseng and Eilert Knudtson

Martha Lyseng born in 1883 at Clinton, Minnesota, second child and eldest daughter of Knut and Marit Lyseng, received her education at Clinton and moved with her family to Canada at the age of 19. In 1906 she married Mr. Eilert Knudtson.

In 1893 Eilert Knudtson left Molde, Norway for the United States. His mother shed a few tears as she packed his belongings and his youngest brother Edward wept as he bade farewell, but Eilert assured them there was no reason to cry. He first of all left in a small boat which took him to a ship. He landed in Detroit and went to visit his aunt in Sisseton, South Dakota. He spent several years in both North and South Dakota, at which time he may have met the Lysengs.

In 1905 Eilert immigrated to Canada and filed on a homestead five miles north of Donald. In 1906 he married Martha Lyseng, eldest daughter of Knut K. Lyseng, Armena. Their first home was a tar-paper



Eilert Knudtson and Martha Lyseng married in 1906.

shack twelve feet by fourteen feet. Their mode of transportation was by wagon or sleigh pulled by oxen. They belonged to Bethany Lutheran Church north of Donalda and their school (Ibsen) was located one mile east of their homestead. Eilert was an exceptionally large man and was very strong being able to lift weights of several hundred pounds.

The Knudtsons farmed at Donalda for many years and raised eight children. Martha was a wonderful mother and also gave much of herself to her church, even though she was not very robust. In 1926 she died giving birth to her ninth child, who also died and was buried with the mother. In 1927 Eilert made his first trip home to Norway to renew acquaintances with his sister and brothers. His parents were deceased. For some years Eilert was a lay-reader in his church and later became a colporteur, and distributed bibles and other christian literature over a wide area. Four years after Martha's death Eilert married Anna Katherine Ness, a widow, who took care of the household for several years until her passing in the 1940's.

Martha and Eilert had eight living children: Sophie, Kenneth, Eileen, Inga, Hans, Gordon, Olga



Eilert Knudtson family, 1942. Back, Left to Right: Kenneth, Gordon, Sophie Gerlinger, Eilert, Eileen, and Hans. Front: Olga, Ruby, Inga.

and Ruby. The children were educated at the Ibsen School. Sophie took high school and Normal training in Camrose, and became a teacher for a few years then married Mr. Jack Gerlinger of Lymburn, Alberta. They operated a general store and Post Office, and raised five children: Lorraine Seehagle, Janet Siegle, Nancy Starling, Irene Gabert and one son John. Sophie and Jack retired to Edmonton, where they enjoy various hobbies, their children and several grandchildren.

Eileen and Inga took employment in Calgary for a number of years, and Olga took up nursing as a career, during which time Mrs. Knudtson took care of Ruby who required special care, until Mrs. Knudtson's death. Eilert soon retired from farming and he and the four girls made their home in Calgary. Eilert passed away in 1959 at the age of 82. Inga passed away in 1976. The three girls Eileen, Olga and Ruby still live in the Calgary home.

Eilert's two younger boys Hans and Gordon farm near Donalda. Hans farms the homestead but does not live on it. He married Anne Marie Johnson and they have four children, three boys Allen, Arthur and Paul (who is married and has one child) and one daughter Lois who married Alvin Sorenson of Holden, in 1980. One son was killed in a tragic accident.

Gordon lives just south of Bethany Church and has been involved through the years, at the present time, 1982, being President of the Congregation. He married Leitha Felzen of Forestburg, and they have six children. Carol married Joseph Goralitz and lives in Lousana, Alberta. Daniel and Judy, Dennis and Ruby Hagen, a teacher, Robert and Cathy Allen all live on farms north of Donalda. Lester and Barbara live at Sylvan Lake and Lester works in Red Deer. Corrine and Rodney Roste live in Vancouver. There are nine grandchildren.

Gordon and Leitha Knudtson celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary at Bethany Lutheran Church on January 31, 1982, with all their family present except Corrine who was unable to come.

Mina Lyseng and Andrew Solheim

Mina Lyseng was born January 7, 1885, at Clinton, Minnesota. She grew up there and had all her early schooling at Clinton. She moved with her family to the North West Territories, Canada, in 1902. However Mina moved back to the States, finished her schooling and taught at Bethania College in Washington. Soon plans were afoot in Canada to obtain higher education for the many immigrant children who wanted nearby church related institutions, thus the Norwegian Lutheran College Association was formed in 1910. In 1911 classes began in the Heather Brae House, later Heather Brae Hotel. A year later the first College building was erected, now known as Founder's Hall (Old Main). Knut Lyseng was a member of the first Board of Trustees, today Board of Regents. Mina Lyseng soon heard of this development and applied for the position of Preceptress (Dean of Women) and as a teacher of Domestic Science. She was hired. (Salary \$450.00 plus board and room, yearly.) Mina was liked and was soon put on permanent staff.

A young professor at the College was Andrew H. Solheim from Huldrefos, Sondfjord, Norge, 100 miles north of Bergen. He had come to the States earlier and in 1911 he came to Canada. In 1919 his Mother, sister Anne and brother Matthias emigrated



Mina Lyseng, 1910.

from Norway and bought a farm just south of the Thordenskjold school where they lived for a time. The Mother died and was buried in Scandia Cemetery. Matthias sold the farm and moved with his sister to a farm at Lake Demay, near Round Hill. Several years later he sold that farm and bought a house in Camrose. Then Matthias made a trip back to Norway, met a congenial lady and decided to marry. He came back to Camrose and she came later and they were married here. However Mrs. Solheim did not like Alberta so Matthias sold his home and Anne moved into a suite, while Matthias and his wife went back to Norway. Anne soon moved into Bethany Home and lived there until her passing at the age of 95.

In 1914 Andrew married Mina and they moved to Red Wing, Minnesota where Andrew was ordained into the Lutheran ministry. Then they came back to Camrose where for several years as well as teaching at C.L.C. he supplied preaching services in country churches in the area. He served the Bethlehem Congregation from 1915 to 1927, and again in 1937-1939. In 1927 he went into full-time ministry first in Calgary, then in Red Wing, Minnesota, Canton, South Dakota then back to Camrose where he served Moland Lutheran Church and the Parkland Church east of Camrose. He also taught Religion Classes at C.L.C. and supplied country churches on a once or twice a month basis. Some of these churches were Armena, Bethlehem, Salem at Kingman, New Norway and possibly others as far away as Bently. For



Andrew Solheim, 1914.

two years 1937-1939, Rev. Solheim served the newly formed Armena Parish consisting of St. Joseph, Hay Lakes, Bethlehem, Dinant, and Scandia, Armena. Then in the fall of 1939 Rev. S. J. Rude was called to become the first resident pastor, living in the G. O. Hendrickson house which the church board had bought as a parsonage. In 1943 the Solheims moved to First Lutheran Church in Vancouver and remained there until his sudden passing in 1952.

Mina and Andrew had a family of seven children. Merlin became a pilot, married, then lost his life during World War 2. Arthur took seminary training in Saskatoon, served several parishes then became a professor at the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute at Outlook, where he is still serving. He married Elora Berg and they have eight children and seven grandchildren. The third son, Otto, joined the army but was tragically killed in traffic on a motor bike, in Vancouver. The first daughter, Mildred, married Trygve Skretting and they ran a general store in Enchant, Alberta for some time, then Trig worked for his teachers' certificate, after which he taught commercial subjects at C.L.C. for several years, then moved over to the Composite School. Mildred and Trig have four boys: George, Norman, Donald and Peter, and one girl Marylin. They have six grandchildren. They built a new home in Camrose in 1979.

The Solheim's fourth son Harold was attending Luther Seminary in Saskatoon when he was killed in a car accident in 1951. The fifth son James, became a teacher in Alberta, married Harriet Meed, a musician, and moved to B.C. They presently live in White Rock, have three children and several grandchildren. Ardith, the youngest child, became a nurse, married Carl Jacobson, formerly of Sedgewick and they live in Surrey, B.C. They have six children including twin boys.



A. H. Solheim family, 1939. Back, Left to Right: Merlin, James, Arthur, Harold, Otto. Front: Andrew, Ardith Jacobson, Mildred Skretting, Mina (Lyseng) Solheim.

Mina Solheim moved into Zion Park Manor after her husband died. Then in 1963, ten years after becoming a widow she married Jacob Davik and went to live in his home in Clinton, Minnesota. Jacob was in poor health for several years and passed away in 1969, after which Mina returned to the Coast. In 1973 she moved back to Camrose and lived in a suite for four years. She found the cold winters very trying and moved back to Zion Park Manor, Surrey, near her daughter Ardith. She was very active there until a short while before she passed away at the age of 96 in April 1981.

Carl K. Lyseng and Ragna Foss written by their girls

Carl K. Lyseng was born in Clinton, Minnesota, to Knut K. and Anne Lyseng on November 30, 1886. He immigrated with his parents to Canada in 1902. They brought all their belongings including cattle, machinery and furniture with them by freight train. At Regina the freight was too heavy so they had to leave one box-car behind. Carl and Edward were in charge of it while the others went on. Knut gave Carl \$5.00 so he and Edward could buy food. When they



Carl and Ragna Lyseng.

got to Moose Jaw they went to a section house to see if they could buy some food. They managed to buy a fresh loaf of bread which they ate heartily without anything to drink, as water was unfit for drinking. When they arrived in Calgary Knut was waiting for them so he could pay the freight charges. They went on to Wetaskiwin where they unloaded everything. Then they travelled by wagon to Knut's homestead SW¼-13-48-21-W4. Here two families shared a 12x16 foot shack. Carl was so tired he slept sitting by the door as it was so crowded.

Carl remembers that during that first summer he went to Wetaskiwin for supplies and there had been a severe hail storm through the Bittern Lake area and people were out picking up wild geese that had been killed by the hail stones. He also remembers that when his sister Martha married Eilert Knudtson, he led a cow (which was a wedding present from Martha's parents) behind a sleigh all the way to Donalda, where the wedding took place. The trip took him five days.

Carl worked with his Dad until he was 23 years old. During that time he homesteaded NE¼-10-48-21-W4, where Fred Dyck presently lives. In 1907 he proved up his homestead and traded it to his father for NW¼-12-48-21-W4, where his son Ivan is presently living. Later he bought the rest of the section namely E½ and SW¼ of 12-48-21-W4.

On March 2, 1910 he married Ragna Foss of Round Hill. Ragna was born in Ishpening, Michigan, to Andrew and Hanna Foss. In 1909 Carl bought his first steam engine, which was used for sawing wood and lumber and for threshing. He traded it for a new one in 1912 and it was used for breaking land, sawing lumber and pulling stumps. Carl got his engineering license in 1912 and has had it renewed every year until he was 90 years old, and it will be valid as

long as he lives. He now lives in Bethany Home and on November 30, 1981 celebrated his 95th birthday with most of his family present.

Carl and Ragna had four daughters and two sons. They were Alna, Hazel, Klemmet, Emily, Ivan and Dorothy. They continued to live on their farm for 57 years. In 1967 Ragna became ill and had to reside at Bethany Home. On March 2, 1980 they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Ragna passed away in 1980 at the age of 89 years. The log house they had lived in on the farm was donated to the Camrose Museum by their son Ivan after Carl and Ragna had both moved to Bethany Home, where Carl still resides in 1982. During a short stay in hospital recently, Carl was missing his usual T.V. programs, Canada A.M. and the news broadcasts. Pretty good for a 95 year old! The stories of their children follow.

Hazel Lyseng and Lester Jornlin

written by Hazel Jornlin

Carl and Ragna's second daughter Hazel May, born in 1912 attended Scandia Church and Thordenskjold School. On August 17, 1939 she married Lester Jornlin at Scandia Church. Lester was also born in 1912. Lester is a carpenter and house builder and lives in Olympia, Washington. Their adopted son Merle Kevin, born February 21, 1950, works with his father.

Klemmet Lyseng and Florence Jones

written by Florence Lyseng

Klemmet was born at home in 1914 to Carl and Ragna Lyseng, the 3rd child in a family of six children. He attended the Thordenskjold School where he did the janitorial work for several years. The means of transportation to and from school for Klemmet, his brother and sisters of course was by horse and buggy or sleigh through muddy roads, snow drifts and cold freezing temperatures. Being such a lover of horses, Klemmet was able to purchase a little white horse (Pet) from Grandad, Knut Lyseng with money he had saved doing his janitorial duties at the school.

Klemmet attended Sunday School at Scandia Church which conducted the services in the Norwegian language but he was confirmed in English.

As Klemmet matured his interests grew to include the working of land, baseball, remodelling cars and chasing girls, not necessarily in that order. He played baseball with the Armena Baseball Team. His first car was a little yellow Ford with a Rumble Seat.

The highlight of the social activity in the Community was Luther League which had an Exchange Program with neighboring Communities. The com-



Carl Lyseng family. Back: Klemmet, Emily (Sware) Peterson, Alna Nisi, Ivan. Front: Dorothy Anderson, Carl and Ragna, Hazel Jornlin.



Klemmet and Florence Lyseng, June, 1940.

ing of winter brought skating on the big slough. Before any skating could be started, the snow had to be shovelled off the ice by hand and the temperature was 30 below zero a lot of the time. The only means of transportation with all the snow and cold was a horse and sleigh. A large bonfire, lots of coffee, food and skating brought the week's entertainment to a close.

I, Florence Jones was also raised in the Armena District, about 3½ miles west on the former Gunnar Hendrickson farm with my mother Josephine and my stepfather Edward Hendrickson. Along with myself, I have a sister Irene and two brothers, Bruce and Arthur.

I also attended Thordenskjold School and Scandia Church and played on the Armena Softball Team.

Although we had some very rough roads to travel (about 3½ miles to church) through mud and snow drifts, it never stopped us from Choir Practise, Sunday School, Luther League or ball games.

Our courting days began when on a Sunday evening, Klemmet, driving his dad's Buick, took several young people along with my sister Irene and me to a Luther League Exchange Program. During the service it had rained so terribly that with the muddy road and car trouble, we arrived home at 5:00 a.m. That was the beginning of our four year romance ending with our wedding in June 1940.

We rented a farm two miles south and a half a mile east of the Ervik Junction. Although, we never had \$.25 in our pockets, we lived very comfortably in an old house that we had papered and cleaned.

Our livestock consisted of three milking cows, a hen, and 13 chicks which was the extent of our

livelihood until the harvest was done. This was our home for two years, during which time, we made many new friends. We then moved back to Armena and built a two room house on Carl Lyseng's place and purchased Nellie Norwick's quarter. In 1942 our 1st child, Gary was born. That same year, we moved our house to the east end of Carl's land.

Our first tractor which replaced the horses was bought in 1947. Once more, we moved our house as we bought the west quarter from Carl. In 1952, we doubled the size of our house and also built a barn.

Calgary Power brought electrical power into the area along with a Mutual Telephone Company. Armena School was centralized so now students were bused in from the surrounding areas. Several of the teachers boarded in our home for a period of three years. During this time, we also opened our home to a sixteen year old boy, Dennis Marsh, who became a part of our family.



Klemmet Lyseng family, about 1980. Back: Murray, Neil, Klemmet, Kent. Front: Gary, Donna, Florence, Kay.

Our family had now grown to six children: 4 boys and 2 girls, Gary, Donna, Kay, Murray, Neil and Kent. Then in 1960 because of allergies to several of the family caused by the rural environment, we had to move to Olympia, Washington. After several moves, we finally settled in Calgary where Klemmet has been a carpenter. His sons work with him. Our farm was sold to Don and Jean Green.

All our children except the youngest are married. We have eleven grandchildren, two little granddaughters were lost due to tragic accidents, but God has sustained us through our Sorrows and Joys.

Emily Lyseng and Allan Sware written by Emily (Sware) Peterson

Emily Celia, third daughter and fourth child of Carl and Ragna was educated at Thordenskjold and

attended Scandia Church with her family. She too belonged to girls clubs, choir etc. On August 17, 1941, she married Allan Sware of Hay Lakes at Scandia, and they farmed in the Hay Lakes area, and were active members of St. Joseph Lutheran Church. In 1967 they moved to Camrose where they were both employed at Rosehaven until retirement. Their three children are, Rena, Trudy and Howard. Allan passed away on May 7, 1980. Emily married Adolph Peterson on November 28, 1981. The story of Emily and Allan's children follows:

Rena married John Stobbe of Grand Prairie, and they have two sons Darci and Dale. Trudy married George Deley. They live at Vulcan, Alberta with their three children Darren, Terry and Jodi. Howard married Lorna Pearson and they live in Camrose. They have three children Jason, Tricia and Derrick.

Ivan Lyseng and Gerd Snipstad written by Doug and Margaret

The Ivan Quentin Lyseng family history began with the birth of a baby boy on the Carl Lyseng farm on December 30, 1921, the fifth child of Carl and Ragna Lyseng. When Ivan was three years old, something very important happened in Norway. Gerd Snipstad was born on August 16, 1924 in Vardal, Norway, the eldest of three children born to Jenny and Kaspar Snipstad. Gerd's brothers are Rev. Richard and Harold Snipstad.

The Snipstads immigrated to Canada in 1926 and settled south west of Meeting Creek, where they purchased a quarter section of raw farm land. Gerd attended school at Big Timber which was 2½ miles from her home, 'til grade 9, then she attended Donaldald High School where she graduated in 1943.

Meanwhile Ivan was receiving an education at Thordenskjold School, about 2 miles west of his home. A horse and cutter or buggy, was the usual means of transportation, so there were few holidays from school due to blocked roads. He says that one of the things he remembers most about school was trying to eat frozen sandwiches which had been kept in the entry until noon. Usually the sandwiches were eaten frozen or thawed out on a stick over the fire.

Ivan decided that he would farm with his father. After finishing school he remembers vividly, breaking twenty acres of land when he first began full time farming. He used a brushcutter pulled by six horses. This brushcutter cut most of the bush with the exception of the biggest trees. Then the bush was piled by hand and burned. Ivan managed to scrape together \$7.00 which he used to purchase a 45 gallon drum of gasoline. That was enough to run the old Case tractor long enough to break the land. Then it was necessary to pick the roots and cultivate the land with



Ivan Lyseng family, 1960. Douglas, Ivan, Gerd, Keith, Carol.

equipment pulled by horses. After the harvest was over, and the bumper crop of oats hauled to the elevator, Ivan was able to declare a \$90.00 profit!

Gerd meanwhile entered the world of teaching and in 1943 entered Normal School. Three months later she was a fully certified teacher and at 19 years of age stepped into a grade one to eight classroom in Bloomingdale, west of Edmonton. Other teaching spots included Mirror Lake, Kensington, west of New Norway and the Cottage School in Camrose.

While teaching in Camrose, Gerd decided to attend a Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation (L.D.R.) meeting at Scandia Church in Armena. As was a regular occurrence at these meetings most of the single men in the area also attended. One of these young men was Ivan Lyseng. After a years courtship Ivan and Gerd decided to get married, and were engaged on the same day that Everett Grue and Ruth Ramstad got married. Then on August 19, 1949, Ivan and Gerd were married in the old Camrose Lutheran Church (now the performing Arts Centre), by Rev. Grundahl. They made their home in the same yard that the Carl Lyseng home was situated.

The Ivan Lyseng family grew to five with two sons and a daughter being born. Douglas was born on June 30, 1950, Keith on January 3, 1954 and their daughter Carol, who finally arrived much to Ivan and Gerd's delight, on April 15, 1957. All three of the children attended Armena School for their elementary education. Douglas graduated from Hay Lakes High School as class valedictorian. Keith and Carol graduated from Camrose Lutheran College. Douglas and Keith played hockey for the C.L.C. Vikings during their years at College.

The three children went on to receive a University education. Doug obtained his Bachelor of Education degree from C.L.C. and the University of Alberta. Keith received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, also from the University of Alberta in



Ivan Lyseng family at Carol's wedding.

Edmonton, while Carol became a Registered Nurse, completing her training at the University Hospital.

Over the years Doug, Keith and Carol chose their life partners and are raising families. Doug married Margaret Jensen of Camrose on May 26, 1973, and they have a son Matthew and are expecting an addition to their family soon. Douglas teaches at Hay Lakes and does some farming where they live just outside of Armena, and where they have built a beautiful home. .

On August 6, 1977, Carol married Gordon Fadum of Bawlf. After spending two years at Grimshaw where Gordon taught school and Carol

was a nurse, they moved to a farm near Bawlf, and carry on with their chosen professions. They are soon expecting their first child.

Keith was married on April 4, 1981, to Terri Bertrand. They now live in Edmonton but are hoping to take over the family farm sometime in 1982. Ivan and Gerd will move into Camrose where they have purchased a home.

During the growing years Ivan and Gerd were very busy as well. They operated a dairy farm until 1967, when Gerd decided to go back teaching at Hay Lakes. Ivan sold the dairy cattle at this time and began a cow and calf beef herd as well as grain farming. Gerd taught in Hay Lakes until June 1981, and Ivan still has his beef herd.

Dorothy Lyseng and August Anderson **written by Dorothy Anderson**

Dorothy Levina, the youngest of the Carl Lyseng children, grew up at Armena. On August 21, 1946 she married August (Andy) Anderson and they lived in Edmonton until July 1959 when they moved to Calgary. Andy died in February 1978. They had six children as follows: Joan born October 7, 1949 married Daryl West and they have three children, Dwayne, Jason and Taunda Sue. Leslie was born June 5, 1953, and Anthony December 26, 1954. On November 24, 1955 Jean arrived in the family. She married Chester Putz on December 15, 1973 and they have a daughter Tamara. Rodney was born on December 24, 1956, and Teresa May on May 10, 1961.

Edward Lyseng and Mina Lomnes **by Helen Torneby and Adeline Moe**

Edward K. Lyseng (1889-1951) was born in Clinton, Minnesota and immigrated with his parents Knut and Anne in 1902, and as soon as he was old enough he took a homestead NW ¼ 18-49-20-W4, near what is now Armena, and later moved closer to his parents to NE ¼ 13-48-19-W4, where he lived until his passing in 1951. In 1910 he married Mina Lomnes (1891-1956), sister of Bert Lomnes and daughter of Halsten Lomnes, who had emigrated from North Dakota in 1894. They were some of the pioneers who went through much hardship while buiding homes, school and church, besides proving up their homesteads, getting land broken up and developing herds of cattle. Edward also drilled wells and cleaned wells in the surrounding districts.

Edward and Mina had six children, Adeline Moe, Helen Torneby, Evelyn Sware, Vernon, Orin and Phylis Nicholson. The family have many happy memories of their parents and their family life, at home, in the Scandia Church and in the community.



Matthew Lyseng.



Edward and Mina Lyseng, 1925. Children, Left to Right: Helen, Evelyn, Adeline, Orin, Phyllis, Vernon.

Adeline was born at Armena and attended Thordenskjold School, as did all the family. She remained at home until her marriage to Martin Moe, of Stettler, who was employed by the C.N.R. "We lived in several places in Alberta, our oldest child being born in Camrose where her father was an employee of the C.N.R. Later our twins Donald and Donna were born at the United Church Mission Hospital in Bonnyville. They all attended the Bonnyville School. Later we again made our home in Camrose, at which time Martin worked for Imperial Oil and the children went to high school there.

Later yet Adeline and Martin moved to Edmonton and he was employed at the Devon Gas Plant until retirement. Since then he has worked part time at The Good Samaritan Home. The children all attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Merle Ann married Larry May and they lived in Winnipeg where their four children were born, later moving to Calgary. Larry passed away suddenly in 1979. Shari married David Robertson in 1981. Alain, Beth and Michael are all at home going to school.

Donald married Lillian Pullisky. They have two children, Scott and Kirsten and live in Richmond B.C.

Donna, Donald's twin married Gary Plante and they live in Calgary. They have two children Daniel and Michelle.

I, Helen, the second daughter of Edward and Mina, born at Armena, also attended Thordenskjold School, driving the three miles by horse and buggy or cutter in the winter, rain or shine, snow or sleet. I belonged to girls' clubs, taught Sunday School, sang in choirs as well as helping my Mother. I married Ivan Torneby who was born in Norway. We were employed on farms in the Edson and Camrose areas. Later we moved to Camrose where Ivan was employed by the City and later by the Camrose County. We moved to our own home on Grandview Crescent. After Ivan retired we kept busy with our home, family and relatives, our Messiah Lutheran Church and pursued various hobbies. Our two children Myrna and John took their schooling at Sifton, Camrose High School and at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton.

John Torneby married Joan Brunner. They have two children, Hewe and Kirk, and they live in Edmonton.

Myrna married Alan Pohlka, lives in Edmonton and they have two children, Gregory and Nicole.

Evelyn Lyseng and Julius Sware written by Evelyn

Evelyn, the third daughter of Edward and Mina Lyseng was born and raised on the farm in the Armena District. She attended the Thordenskjold School.

In 1940 she married Julius Sware of Hay Lakes. They moved to their present farm, N.E. ¼ 14-49-21-W4, which they purchased from his parents, who originally had homesteaded there in 1902.

Evelyn and Julius have two children Bryan and Jayne. They attended the Hay Lakes School. Bryan married Vivian McCabe and they have a daughter Laurell and a son Jason. They presently live in Surrey, B.C.

Jayne married Dwayne Peterson of Camrose and they have two sons, Aaron and Dallas. This family lives in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Vernon Lyseng and Alice (Sware) Lyseng

Vernon Palmer Lyseng, fourth child and first boy of Edward and Mina Lyseng, was born at Armena in 1918. He farmed with his father and built a small house in the yard for his folks when he married Alice Sware of Hay Lakes, in 1939. Vernon and Alice had two boys Nolan and Calvin (Cal).

Vernon spent his whole life on the farm at Armena. He was active in sports and in youth work and Sunday School at Scandia Church. In middle life he spent many years working with Cubs and Scouts and then with 4H groups when that work was started. Many young lives were thus influenced for good. Vernon had a beautiful bass voice and for many years

was part of a men's quartet which entertained at church and community functions. He was a quiet man with a beautiful sense of humor, and was liked by everyone. After his father's death in 1951, Vernon took over the management of the farm with the help of his sons. For twenty-five years they operated a family business, "The Lyseng Hereford Farms". In 1963 Vernon bought his Uncle Robert Lyseng's farm the S ½ 13-48-21-W4, which was the place Knut K. Lyseng settled on when he came to Canada in 1902. In 1969 Vernon and Alice moved to that farm to live. At this time Nolan was ready to take over the home place.

Nolan married Ruby Holte and they have three children Brent, Shauna and Jason. They lived in the big house, built by Edward, and here was the center of the hereford business.

Calvin went on to University and won a degree in engineering, after which he was employed at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. Cal married Anne Grue in 1971, the first marriage between the Grues and the Lysengs, both being pioneer families of the district. Cal and Anne could both look back on happy childhoods at Armena. "There were the annual Christmas concerts at Scandia and at Armena School, and ro-



Four Generations. Seated: Mrs. Knut Lyseng. Behind: Son, Edward Lyseng. To Left: Grandson, Vernon Lyseng. On lap: Great-grandson, Nolan Lyseng.



Vernon Lyseng family. Left: Nolan and Ruby (Holte) Lyseng, Brent, Shauna, and Jason. Centre: Alice (Sware) and Vernon Lyseng. Right: Calvin, Anne (Grue), Christopher and Sarah.

mantic Friday night skating parties!" Cal and Anne were married at Scandia Church and took up residence in the little house in Nolan and Ruby's yard. "In 1976 we moved the little house up the road north to our own land. A few months later our first son Jeffrey was born. We called the whole experience 'homesteading'. Sarah came along in 1979 and she and Jeffrey enjoyed their home in the country with its gardens to dig in, fences to climb and bulls to look at.

"1981 was a year of sickness and sadness for the family (as Vernon passed away) and for us it included a move to an acreage near Victoria, B.C. It was with a feeling of loss that we left behind our friends and much loved community, but with feelings of excitement that we anticipated new career opportunities for Cal." However that did not work out and after Cal had obtained a position at Bethany home in Camrose, the family moved back to this area. Anne, at the time she was writing this history was back to Armena for a visit. She wrote, "We walked through our little old house and yard. It was just a few days before the new owners came. Jeffrey said it well when he made the comment, 'Mom, it was a good place to live!' "

The five grandchildren brought so much joy and laughter into Alice and Vernon's lives and they enjoyed family and friends so very much. Alice says, "I am happy to still be a part of this community."

Orin Wilfred Lyseng

Orin, second son of Edward and Mina, was born at Armena in 1921. He attended school at Thordensk-jold and Confirmation Class at Scandia. Just before he was to be confirmed he was taken ill with a ruptured appendix and died in the Camrose hospital in 1936. Orin was of a cheerful disposition and was much missed by family and friends.

Phylis Lyseng and James Nicholson

Edward and Mina Lyseng's youngest child was Phylis, born at Armena and attended school at Thor-

denskjold and at Armena. She then took a secretarial course in Camrose. Phyllis led the Junior Choir at Scandia for several years. In 1949 she married Jim Nicholson of Bonnyville at Scandia. Jim works at micro-filming. They have two children Roderick and Kerry. The family resides in Calgary.

K. Andres Lyseng and Bertha (Sware) Lyseng

written by Bertha and Dorothy Lyseng

The sixth of Knut and Anne Lyseng's children was Anders, born at Clithoral, Minnesota, on June 17, 1891. He lived and went to school in Clinton, Minnesota before moving with his family in 1902 in Canada. He then attended Thordenskjold school and spent a term at C.L.C. He was confirmed at Scandia Lutheran Church. About 1918 he purchased the former Jacob Lunde farm two miles north of the home place. However he lived at home for two years before taking up residence on his farm. The land was fertile and Anders raised many fine crops of wheat, oats and barley, and raised cattle and other stock as well. He was handy with horses, being able to look after tooth problems etc.

Anders married Bertha Sware of Hay Lakes, a daughter of Anton Sware also a pioneer. There were two children, Phyllis born in 1929, and Lyle in 1933. In 1939 the family moved from the homestead shack into a lovely new home. This home has been a center of hospitality through the years. They continued farming for many years until Anders due to ill-health was forced to move into Bethany Nursing Home in 1977, where he remained until his death April 1, 1979 at the age of 87.



Anders and Bertha (Sware) Lyseng.

Phyllis attended Thordenskjold and Armena Schools, C.L.C. and the University of Alberta in Edmonton where she earned her teacher's certificate. She was a lovely singer and was often called upon to sing at programs and other special events. Phyllis taught at several schools in the Camrose County, then she went to work near Sexsmith. Here she met an enterprising young farmer Morely Eide. Phyllis and Morely were married in 1953 and raised a family of five children, namely, Wade, (twins) Kathryn Ildal and Karen Shannon, Craig and Heather Hornland. The three girls are married and there are three grandchildren: Dara, Lynette and Alissa. Phyllis did substitute teaching while raising her family and still continues to do so. The family is active in the Sexsmith Lutheran Church.



25th Anniversary. Lyle Lyseng, Don Eide, Morley Eide, Phyllis (Lyseng) Eide, Joyce Baird and Linda McCoy.

Lyle attended school at Thordenskjold and Armena, then spent one term at Vermilion School of Agriculture, and since then has worked with his father until Anders moved into Bethany in 1977, after which he has continued to farm independently with his mother. He is only grain farming now. In the slack winter season Lyle is an avid curler, and has brought home many fine trophies.

Alma Lyseng and Edward Hoyme

Alma was born April 23, 1893, at Clinton, Big Stone County, Minnesota. At the age of nine she moved with the family to Canada. She attended, Thordenskjold School and in 1911 attended the first class held at C.L.C. and graduated with the first graduating class in 1913. In 1915 she attended Camrose Normal School and graduated from Alberta University Summer School in 1915. Alma taught the Thordenskjold School in 1916 then taught one year at New Salem south of Camrose the next year. On July 25, 1918 Alma married Gustav Edward Hoyme. They took a homestead across the road from the school and



Ernest, Clifford, Arnold, Almira, Orin, Konard. Center: Edward, Melford, Alma Hoyme.

farmed there until Edward passed away on August 21, 1955. In the fall of 1959 Alma moved into Camrose where she lived with son Orin until moving into Bethany Home in 1977 where she received loving care until her passing February 24, 1981 at age 87.

Alma and Edward had seven children: Konard, Ottawa; Ernest, Camrose; Arnold, Wetaskiwin; Almira Mann, Penhold; Clifford, Camrose; Orin, Bethany Home and Melford, Calgary. All are married except Orin and there are 17 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Alma was a long and faithful member of Messiah Lutheran Church, active in L.C.W. and loved her garden and flowers. She was a wonderful homemaker, loving mother and her door was always open to all.

Ole K. Lyseng

written by Dorothy Lyseng

Ole was drafted into the army during World War One. He was sent over to England for training and



Bronze plaque presented to Mr. and Mrs. Knut K. Lyseng in honor of their son, Ole K. Lyseng, who died of 'flu in England in 1917, during World War I.



Carl and Florence Hendrickson and daughter Eloise at Ole's grave, 1937.

died there of the Flu which raged at that time, and lies in the Soldier's Plot, Canadian Division, in Bramshott Cemetery. Several of the family have visited Ole's grave. His parents had a stone erected in his memory.

George 1897-1898, died as an infant at the age of about one year, and was buried in the cemetery near Clinton.

George Lyseng and Gertie (Lomnes) Lyseng

written by Larry Lyseng

George Lyseng, tenth child of Knut and Anne Lyseng, was born at Clinton, Minnesota on May 26, 1899 and three years later moved to the Armena district with his parents.

Gertie, the eldest daughter of Bertin and Laura Lomnes, was born at their home north of Armena, on August 22, 1904. Both George and Gertie attended school at the original Thordenskjold School.

On December 16, 1926, George and Gertie were married in the Scandia Lutheran church. They spent three months on a honeymoon at the Coast, and upon their return lived at the Knut K. Lyseng home for about a year while farming and building their own home midway between their parental homes. Four sons were born to this marriage; Denis, Wayne, Larry and Orrin. They attended Thordenskjold



George Lyseng family. Larry, Denis, Wayne, Orrin, George, Gertie.

School, Armena School, then finishing high school at C.L.C.

Denis, born October 3, 1928, entered the employ of The Royal Bank and has served many branches in Western Canada and is presently located in Saskatoon. He married Jean McLennan and they have one son Barry.

On January 24, 1934 Wayne was born. He was a twin but the little girl, Wilma, was still born. Wayne also was employed by the Royal Bank, served at many branches in Alberta, and spent seven years in Montreal. Wayne married Donna Gent, who is a school teacher, and they have two sons, Kevin and Randy. Wayne is presently located in Calgary.

Number three son Larry, born on April 6, 1939, started out in The Royal Bank, but growing tired of that he switched to an Agricultural Administrative position. He is happy in that work, and lives in Edmonton. Larry married Haleen Grimson and they have three children Lee, Glenn and Lisa.

Orrin, the youngest son, born on November 17, 1944, became a psychiatric nurse and lives in Edmonton. Orrin's wife Marty Dechant is also a nurse. They have two daughters Carly and Kristy.

"Both our parents were actively involved in the church and community, with mother being the church organist for approximately 50 years. Their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated at Scandia Church in 1976. Three years later they sold their home and moved into Camrose where they presently reside."

Kari Alice and Richard Thomson written by Dorothy Lyseng

Kari Alice, born in 1901 at home in U.S.A. was educated at the Thordenskjold School at Armena, and attended Camrose Lutheran College for high school. She married Richard Thomson who was a



Alice Lyseng and Richard Thomson, 1931.



Donald and Diane Thomson.

grain buyer at Armena, Hay Lakes and at Lake Demay, east of Armena. They had one son Donald Keith born in 1932 while they lived at Lake Demany. Shortly after this the family moved to Calgary where they lived for many years. Donald married Diane McIlveen of Calgary and they have two children, Gregory Richard and Susan Kari. Donald lives at Arlington Heights in Illinois.

Later Alice and Dick moved to Edmonton when he retired. He died in 1963. For some years Alice worked as a seed analyst for the United Grain Growers until retirement. Her last years were spent in an apartment near Calvary Lutheran Church where she was very active. She passed away peacefully in her sleep, shortly after her 80th birthday and was buried beside her husband in the Cemetery in Edmonton, 1981.

Edna Bertine and Thomas Thomas

written by Dorothy Lyseng

Edna, the first of the children to be born in Canada was born at home in 1903. She took her



Edna Lyseng and Tom Thomas, 1930.

schooling at Thordenskjold School and Camrose Lutheran College, then trained as a nurse at the new St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. She was a member of the first graduating class. She then nursed at the Hardisty hospital where she met and married Thomas Thomas a farmer who hailed from England. They farmed there for several years, where their two children were born, Thomas Robert (Bobby) in 1931, and Joyce 1934. After several years they moved to Calgary as Edna was not well. She spent several



Joyce and Bob Thomas

years in a Sanitorium and passed away in 1952. Joyce married Allen Morgan and they have five children, Robert, Thomas, Joyce (Joy), Barbara and Douglas. Allen works in a Fleishman's Yeast factory and Joyce for a bank. They lived in Calgary. Bob married a nurse, Shirley Wearmonth and they have four boys, Bruce, Glen, Keith and Wayne. They live at Bear's Paw, west of Calgary where Bob works in a Service Station.

Robert K. Lyseng and Dorothy Deverell

written by Dorothy Lyseng

The youngest and last child, Robert, born at Armena in 1905, spent most of his life on the farm. Because his mother was boarding the teacher, Robert was allowed to start school at the age of five. He never forgot his teacher, Miss Mckay. After completing public school he spent a winter in Edmonton studying Automotives. He had a talent for handling horses and was good at breaking them for farm use. At the age of 21, he left the farm and spent a year working in lumber camps in Washington State. After this he returned home to manage the farm for his father and eventually bought it from the estate. About this time a young school teacher came to take over the Thordenskjold School, named Dorothy Deverell. Their marriage took place in November 1932. They raised three children: Frederick Keith, Margaret Anne and John Arvid.

These were depression years and we worked hard but had no luck. Robert had always been interested in steam engines since he was water boy for his father's steam engine. He took a course by correspondence, in Steam Engineering, won a fourth class certificate



Robert Lyseng and Dorothy Deverell, 1932.

and was able to work on several Oil Rigs in the area. Later he went into the raising of Purebred Hereford cattle and built up a fine herd of around 70 animals. This was very rewarding work, but his health began to deteriorate so we had to sell out which we did in the fall of 1963. In 1964 we moved into Camrose to a home which we had earlier purchased, Robert passed away soon afterwards and I have maintained the home since that time.

Our children were baptized, attended Sunday School and were confirmed at Scandia Lutheran Church, were active in Luther League choir, L.D.R. and in sports and Scouts. Their education was obtained at the Armena School and Camrose Luther College. After College Fred joined the Royal Bank Staff and is still with them in the main branch in Edmonton after spending several years in other cen-

ters in Alberta and B.C. most recently in Vancouver. Fred married a nurse, Barbara Finseth Gutche, and they have a family of three: Cathy (who married Marty Andrews in 1979), Donald and Brian.

Margaret finished high school at C.L.C., took a secretarial course and worked for an accountant for a time. She then entered Edmonton University in 1957-1960 in the faculty of Commerce. In 1963 she received her Chartered Accountant's Degree. In 1960 she married Gordon Henry Braaten of Calgary. They have three children: Barbara, John Paul, and Robert. They lived in Calgary for a time, then moved to Missoula, Montana where Gordon took a Business Administration Course. After returning to Canada they lived in Edmonton and since 1973 in Calgary. They have been active in Faith Lutheran Church in Calgary.

John Lyseng helped his father on the farm for a short time, then had an opportunity to become employed by the International Harvester Company in Edmonton. In 1960 he married his childhood sweetheart, Heather Gilbertson. John was transferred to Vancouver in 1963 and in 1966 to Prince George B.C. A daughter Pamela Lynn was born to them in 1966. In 1969 John returned to Vancouver and built a home in Port Coquitlam, where they have since lived until 1981 when they moved to Vernon B.C. Heather has had part-time employment in the Bank of Montreal and later in Coquitlam Royal Bank, through the years.

Marit Lyseng Anderson and Elias Lyseng

The fourth and sixth of Knut E. Lyseng's children were Marit and Elias. They remained in the States.



Robert Lyseng family, 1979. Back, Left to Right: Gordon Braaton, Donald, John, Martin Andrews, Brian, Fred. Centre: Pamela, Heather (Gilbertson), Dorothy, Margaret Braaton, Barbara, Cathy Andrews. Front: Barbara, John-Paul, Robert Braaton.

Marit married Andreas Anderson and had two children and died at the age of 21 when the third child was born. They were buried together. The two living children were Sivert and Mary. Mary married Ole Dahlen and has visited her Canadian cousins. Mary and Ole are both buried in Clinton Cemetery.

Elias Lyseng married Rasmine Sten. They home-steaded a "tree claim" in Western Minnesota and raised a family of six: Julia Haukness, Christine Gjengdahl, Marie Gjengdahl, Bernt (Bennie), Melvin and Emma Tuller.

Randine Lyseng and Lars Hong.

Randine, the fifth child of Knut and Marit, immigrated to Canada with the family in 1910. They lived at Armena for a time, then in Camrose, finally settling at Bentley, Alberta. They had a family of nine children, but only four survived the epidemics of the time. The four survivors were Clara Erickson, Lilie Weisenberg, Edwin, who married his cousin Olianna Hendrickson, and Robert, who married Christine Pringle and lived in Nelson, B.C.

The Macaphees

Mrs. Macaphee and her two adult children, Clint and Goldie, lived in the Camrose north area for several years during the 1920's.

As we do not know their whereabouts we have not been able to gather much information but they lived on the farm originally owned by Bengt Anderson, now owned by the Hutterites.

Goldie is well remembered for her handsome riding outfit (breeches and all) and for the beautiful white horse which she rode.

Clint broke up a lot of land around the country, sometimes assisted by Ludwig Lyseng. Once, when Clint and Ludwig broke up fifty acres of land for Andrew Ditmanson near Hay Lakes, they took young Orvil Pederson along to "cook" and wash dishes. Orvil also carried the dynamite sticks for them, in case they needed some to blow out stumps.

Clint Macaphee also worked with Carl Anderson at haying time, putting up hay at both places.

On one occasion Lavern Anderson stayed overnight with Goldie and enjoyed the hot baking powder biscuits served for breakfast. This was their usual breakfast treat.

The Macaphees moved to Saskatchewan and reports are that Clint has since passed away.

William MacDonald Family

William Joseph MacDonald was born at Fraser's Mills, Nova Scotia, on April 22, 1896. He attended St. Francis Xavier University for one year, 1916, and

at the end of that year, joined the Canadian Army. He went overseas, where he served as a medical orderly.

On returning to Canada, he moved to Alberta. He worked for the Northern Alberta Railway in the Peace River country and then on the farm of his future father-in-law, Mr. Walter Scott of Rabbit Hill, just south of Edmonton.

Bernice Olive Scott was born May 29, 1897 in Hudson, Wisconsin. She moved with her family to the Rabbit Hill district in 1903 and grew up there. In 1915 she graduated from the Vermilion School of Agriculture.

William and Bernice were married June 21, 1923. They settled ten miles north of Camrose in the Dinant district and lived there until 1967 when they retired and moved into Camrose. Bernice did not live to enjoy retirement very long as she passed away on March 16, 1968. William lived alone until failing health made it necessary for him to move to the Bethany Nursing Home, Camrose, in 1973. He lived there until his death on May 24, 1979.



William and Bernice MacDonald.

The Macdonalds had three children: Bernice, Donald, and Joyce. They also had a nephew and a niece, Vernon and Jean Fuller, living with them for a number of years due to illness in their family.

Bernice Elizabeth was born on July 17, 1928. She attended school at Thronson and Dinant, then High School in Camrose. After High School, she married Edward Starcheski of Round Hill. They had four children. Linda Marie, born May 28, 1949, now Mrs. L. Descheneaux of Edmonton. They have five children. James Edward, born October 11, 1953, married Ann Nelson and lives in Vegreville where he is an accountant with the Treasury Branch. Robert Michael, born December 12, 1959, is married to Karen Richardson and has one son, Michael Bruce.

Bob is employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool. Anthony John, born October 2, 1961, lives in Camrose with his mother and is apprenticing in the Welding trade. Bernice is presently employed as a Medical Records Technician at Rosehaven Care Centre, Camrose.

Donald A. Macdonald was born November 6, 1930. Donald started school at the Thronson School, then went to Dinant with horses and buggy in the summer and cutter in the winter.

During these years he received his catechism lessons, made his First Communion and was Confirmed at St. Francis Xavier Church, Camrose. Donald attended Vermilion School of Agriculture before working in Round Hill mines for one winter. After that he farmed with his father until 1950, when he started work in the oilfields around Edmonton, working on service rigs, until 1953 when he started at the Texaco Refinery, where he is presently employed. He married Rosalia Wempe of the Kingman district and lived in Edmonton until moving to Camrose a few years ago. Donald and Rosalia spend a lot of time from spring to fall in the Elk Island Park area, where they hobby farm. They have six children: Donna May, Barry Joseph, Neil Douglas, Donald Grant, and Scott Owen of Edmonton and Marie Allison of Camrose. Donald and Rosalia have three grandchildren.

Joyce Ann Macdonald was born on August 7, 1935. After attending the Vermilion School of Agriculture and the University of Alberta, she taught school at Kingman for four years. On July 27, 1957 she was married to Dennis Dibski of Dinant. They live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where Dennis is a Professor in the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan. Dennis and Joyce have four children: Kathryn Bernice, born July 4, 1958. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1980 and is employed by an accounting firm. Denise Ann was born December 5, 1960. After High School, she married Kerry Hill and has one son, Tyler Dean, born May 24, 1980. Maria Norma arrived October 30, 1964, and has just completed Grade XI. John William Macdonald was born July 28, 1967 and has just completed Grade VIII.

Clarence A. Magneson History contributed by the Magneson children: Esther, Florence, Helen, and Rudy

Clarence Magneson was born on March 25, 1891, in St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. and homestead at Cereal, in Southern Alberta in 1909. His wife, Thea Bergh, was born in Northfield, Minnesota, U.S.A. on February 10, 1892. They were married in July,

1913 and were blessed with a family of three daughters and one son.

Southern Alberta experienced many years of drought and after living in Cereal for twenty-four years, the Magneson family moved to the Baldenstein District in 1933.

We remember how very thankful our parents were for what they had. They always put the Lord first in their lives and were good examples for their family and friends. They often mentioned the warm welcome they received in the community and the kind neighbors ready to offer help in times of need. Helen and Rudy both attended Baldenstein School. Helen recalls what a thrill it was to meet the Roth sisters at the Camrose Homecoming in 1980 and what fun they all had reminiscing about their school days.



Neighborhood gathering at the home of Grant Loveseth. Present in picture are the Slettons, Nesvolds, Magnesons, Fowlers, Nelsons, and Walkemeyers.

We never could understand how our Dad could drive the horses and sleigh the five miles to church in Camrose without wearing gloves. Now that we are older, we understand it better, knowing of the hard work done with his hands.

Some of you may not know about the "tea cup lady". One day when in Camrose, she told our Dad that a man would be coming to the farm to offer him a job and she suggested he shouldn't turn it down. Shortly after that a man did arrive at the farm and asked him to sell insurance. He decided to give it a try. He was honored several years for selling quality insurance. They had a farm sale in 1938 and soon after bought a home in Camrose at 4618-49 Street, where they lived for several years. Our dad retired in 1958.

Our parents had the distinct privilege of celebrating not only their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary but also their Fifty-fifth and their Sixtieth Diamond Anniversary, this while they lived at Bethany Home.

Our Dad, Clarence Magneson, passed away November 9, 1973, at the age of eighty-two years. Our mother celebrated her nintieth birthday on Feb-

ruary 10, 1982. She is frail and although hard of hearing, still has a pleasant smile and that sparkle in her eye. She winks with no trouble when something touches her fancy. She's a great lady.

Esther married Pastor Raymond Olson in 1938. Before her marriage, Esther taught school for a few years. Raymond served as an Evangelical Pastor for forty years and for the last six years he has been with the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement. They have four married daughters and nine grandchildren.

Florence married Luther Olson in 1939. They both taught school for a number of years. For several years, Luther was the Business Administrator for the Smith Clinic in Camrose. He passed away in 1978. They had a family of four daughters and two sons, all married. There are eighteen grandchildren.

Helen married Oscar Thompson in 1946. Helen worked as a bank employee and Oscar served in World War II from 1941 to 1946 before they were married. They have two sons and one daughter, all married, and four grandchildren. All live in Saskatchewan where the Thompsons have farmed for more than thirty years.

Rudy married Bernice Jevne in 1946. He served in World War II and afterwards was Secretary of the County of Camrose office. He was an active member of the Camrose Barbershoppers and of the Northernairs Quartet, Bernie and Rudy were both involved in Church Choir work. Bernie is Manageress of a Ladies Clothing Store. They have one married daughter and three grandchildren.

John and Joe Mahar

Joseph (Joe) Henry Mahar and his brother, John, moved to this area from Sedalia in Southern Alberta in 1936. They bought and settled on the Bengt Anderson farm on SW ¼ 10-48-20 W4. Joe was the cook and gardener, while John, the self-made veterinarian, willingly rendered his services to many of the neighbors' animals.

In the late forties, they had an auction sale and bought from Mr. Keenis, forty acres of the NE quarter of section four, just north of the C.P.R. tracks in west Camrose. Here the boys were hobby farming and Joe continued his gardening. Anyone passing by could not resist marvelling at the show of colors in his flower-beds. John raised chickens and had customers who would stop in regularly for eggs and a visit. Joe and John added a bit of spice to our neighborhood.

Joseph Henry was born April 16, 1893 and died November 21, 1955 at the age of sixty-two years. John was born June 3, 1899 and died July 18, 1963 at the age of sixty-four years. They are both buried in Camrose Cemetery.

Lars Maland

Not all those who contributed to the growth and spirit of our community had first spread their wings over United States soil; some came directly from Europe. One such man was Lars Olsen Maland.

Lars was born on December 15, 1882 to Olaf and Anna Maland of Hamar, Norway. On November 26, 1906 he arrived in Camrose where he joined his uncle, Ole Spidahl, who was homesteading the southeast quarter of the present city.



Lars Maland, Elmer Ofrim, and others at Lars' after a successful duck hunt.

For the first ten years in Canada, Lars worked as a store clerk, both in Camrose and in Hay Lakes. In 1910, Lars and his younger brother Adolph, who joined him in 1908, purchased the S½ 29-48-20 W4, in the Lundemo district. Quoting from a letter from his nephew, John Maland — "Lars would quit work early in the grocery store to go working on his land. The first year he cleared twelve acres. I don't know what store it was but it was beneath the Sons of Norway meeting hall in Camrose. He told me of an incident. It seems that the day before a dance, Lars had piled tins of jam almost to the ceiling in the store. That night they held a Sons of Norway dance and the place was really jumping. The next morning Lars came to work to find that the tins had fallen down; many had opened and jam was spread all over. Lars spent the rest of the day cleaning up the place. He had to take an adding machine apart since jam had gotten into the mechanism." end quote.

Lars and his brother Adolph, were instrumental in establishing the Norwegian national sport, skiing, in this community. Lars was an avid skier and received many medals in competitions.

Lars was the "Mr. Fix-it" of the community. There was nothing he could not repair and was never too busy to help a neighbor in distress. He was the



Lars hesitating about riding the Harley Davidson.

first trouble-shooter, a job he held for many years for the Mutual Telephone Company.

For thirty-two years he toiled devotedly to create a farm that not only he, but the neighbors as well, could be proud of. In 1948 with his task completed, he decided to retire. His retirement began with an extensive tour that eventually took him to visit his native homeland. He got as far as Vancouver, where he stayed for three weeks, when he realized that he could not be happy away from farming and his many friends in Camrose he returned here.

In April, 1949, Lars purchased the Hatfield property at Lundemo. There he stayed for ten years after which time poor health forced his ultimate retirement. He sold his farm to Henry and Lefty Wolfe.

For the last seven years of his life, Lars stayed at the home of his sister-in-law, Signe Maland. From here, at the invitation of his friends and relatives he ventured forth to visit for varying periods of time. Wherever he went, he took along his chest of tools and to the delight of his friends he would repair or manufacture, in a remarkable fashion all manner of artifacts.

Although weakened by his years, Lars continued to exhibit the genius and diligence which he was noted for in the farming community of the past. Along with his craftsmanship, he brought to all, his



Beginning of Lars Maland's first barn.

warm and friendly manners. He was always cheerful, kind, witty and understanding to all people. He loved to chat with old and young alike. Although a bachelor, his reputation as a gentle and understanding man brought to his door many young persons whose lives were greatly influenced by counsel which was based on the Christian ethics he so ably practised.

Some who knew Lars Maland have a record of his forethought and assistance to remember him by. All who knew him became richer for meeting him.



Lars Maland, John Erickson, and Oscar Staboe clearing land.

Nelvin Thronson, a neighbor, writes this tribute to Lars:

"As a close neighbor of Lars, I think it is fitting that we add a few words in appreciation of all the help received from him. As a young fellow wanting to "make things" but lacking many of those extra tools, like blacksmith's post-drill, and taps and dies, we imposed on him so many times, for help and advice in those early years, as did most of our neighbors. We can only say — "Hats off to a good neighbor. Thank you, Lars!"

Lars passed away November 6, 1966 at the age of eighty-three years. He is buried in Camrose Cemetery.

Arnold Malone, M.P.

In the summer of 1979 I purchased the farm site, SW 5-48-20-4, from Mr. P. C. Palamattam. I was

very much impressed with the peaceful setting and the beautiful view that this small farm offered. The purchase was made after a considerable search in the Camrose area and I chose the present site because it seemed to complement my travel patterns and my job as a Member of Parliament.

Being located northwest of Camrose I have very easy access to and from the Edmonton International Airport and, in particular, on return visits to the constituency when flying west, I can stop at my residence without a long travel into the constituency. Since the riding of Crowfoot's general dimensions are 160 miles east and west, 200 miles north and south, containing 113 individual communities which are largely to the southeast of my residence, it means that I can rise the morning after returning west and simply continue to travel towards any community in which I have arranged meetings. Further, the close proximity to Camrose makes the location absolutely ideal to serve my constituency office which is located in that community.

The peaceful tranquility my new site offers is deeply appreciated and I very much enjoy the company of the surrounding neighbours. I look forward to many more years in this rich farming area and also for the opportunity to meet neighbours I have heard about but have not had the chance to visit with directly. I trust that this occasion will soon take place.

Robert Mickelson **Old Times Years Ago**

In 1919 John Mickelson bought C.P.R. land, SW ½ 27-48-20 W4. Having worked for the railroad as a section foreman for many years he felt it was time for a change in his lifestyle.

In 1921 John and his wife, Bertha (Tilly), built a small house on this quarter of raw land. It was located east across the road allowance from the John Thronson farm. They then began the task of clearing brush, fencing, and raising cattle.

John, Swedish-born, and Bertha, Iowa-born, decided to add a family to the enterprise. In 1925 Robert filled the bill. Eileen in 1929 completed the household.

After farming until 1945, Mr. John Mickelson passed away. The rest of the family carried on; Bob and Eileen continuing to take part in church and community activities.

Bob and Eileen received all their education at Thronson School. Their teachers were Raymond Skaret, Richard Robertson, Judith Knudson, Olive Thronson, Nels Kvisle, Arthur Solheim, Irene Jones, and Martha McCormick. At a school ball tournament in Hay Lakes, Bob tore out the seat of his pants while sliding to second base. He sat out the rest

of the game in the car. Pranks were played on the teachers with some being as original as gophers in the desk overnight, tacks on the chair, or water buckets balanced on the top of a partly opened door.

In 1948 Bob married Irene Roncier and Eileen and Ole Rosland were wed. Eileen was transformed into a domestic housewife. Bob left the farm to drive truck but he returned to the community with his new bride in the fall.

Bertha Mickelson moved to Camrose leaving Bob and Irene farming the old place. Blessed with three sons and one daughter, the population of the community increased. Ray, Glen, and Connie Mickelson received their education in Dinant and Kingman. Leon, the youngest, started school at Erskine, near Stettler, Alberta.

In 1965 Bob and his family changed their environment by his going to work as a ranger with the Provincial Parks. The children completed their education at various locations throughout southern and western Alberta. Bob and Irene are still with Provincial Parks, Bob presently being in charge of the 6638 acre, Wm. A. Switzer Provincial Park, located twenty kilometers northwest of Hinton.

Ray is following his father's fancy and is a seasonal ranger in charge of the Horse Patrol in Bow Valley Provincial Park.

Glen is employed in the Kananaskis Provincial Park as equipment supervisor maintaining a large fleet of vehicles.

Connie, having been a security officer for the Hudson's Bay Company in Hinton and Red Deer, has gone to Christian College in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, for the past two years. She also planted trees for the pulp mill this past summer.

Leon is completing grade twelve in Hinton.

Grandma Mickelson is living in Bethany Home in Camrose, Alberta.

Many memories of the old times are brought to light when holiday visits are exchanged each year.

Tom Mikulecky

Tom Mikulecky lived in his little log cabin on NE 26-47-21. He kept coyote hounds. In the winter time, he on his Pinto, with his gun and hounds would hunt down many a prairie wolf. He did this not only for sport but also for a financial aid. Pelts were selling for as low as \$4.00 but in 1926 a good pelt brought up to \$20.00.

Tom had a fear of ghosts. One night walking home across the fields from Hamilton's he thought he saw a ghost so he turned around and ran back to their place. The boys went with him and discovered the ghost to be the moonlight shining in his horses eyes.

William Mittlestadt Family as told to Elmer Olson by Henry Mittlestadt

William Mittlestadt was born in Germany in 1859. As a young man he chose to become a member of the Military Band rather than join the army. He was married in Germany and with his wife and four children immigrated to Ritzville, Washington, U.S.A. In 1906 the family moved to Camrose, Alberta and settled on N.E ¼ Section 18-47-20 W4. Their family consisted of ten children. Albert had a dray business in Camrose, Amelia married Ed. Deisting, Lydia married William Rutz, Minnie married G. Diesting, Daniel worked in coal mines at Dinant, Ida married Gust Gouse, Tofeld worked as a mechanic at



Henry Mittlestadt and Elmer Olson.

the Gus Glatiotis Ford Garage in Camrose for many years, Rudolph was in the trucking business, Adolph was a wrestler as was Henry the youngest son.

All of the six youngest children attended Baldestein School. Their father, Willaim Mittlestadt played cornet in the Camrose Band from 1920 until the early years of 1930. Their farm home was completely destroyed by fire in 1938 and all contents were lost.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rutz (Lydia) will be remembered as some of the first custodians of the Sifton School in Camrose for several years. Mrs. Rutz once remarked that her own education consisted of only thirty-nine days in school.

Adolph and Henry Mittlestadt formed a wrestling team known as "Murder Incorporated", Adolph took the name of "Murder Mills" and Henry as "Tiny Mills". They held the Canadian Wrestling Championship for four years, and travelled around the world twice on Goodwill Wrestling Tours.

Rudolph and Henry Mittlestadt are the only liv-



Albert Mittlestadt moving barn to Stovers.

ing members of the family. Henry Mittlestadt has retired and lives in Milaca, Minnesota, U.S.A. where he serves on the Milaca town council and raises purebred Herefords as a hobby.

Mrs. William Mittlestadt passed away in 1939 and William in 1943. They are buried in the Baptist Cemetery, East Bittern Lake.

John and Marit Moe — Pioneer Family My Dad's, Dad's, Dad by Darren Moe, Great-Grandson of John and Marit Moe, from conversations with his Grandfather, Adolph Moe

In 1895, the Moe family raided the Armena area, led by John Moe and his wife, Marit. They were about the third family to move to this district, having come from Grafton, North Dakota.

They settled on their homestead located on the NE ¼ 4-48-21 W4. This quarter was later taken over by John Moe's youngest son, Arnt. In turn, Arnt sold this land to Art Olafson, who sold it to Rod Skaret the present owner. The original house sided over with lumber, still stands and is located about one mile from our farm.

John and Marit had ten children, eight of whom were born in the United States, and two at Armena. Naming them, youngest to oldest, they were Gena (Mrs. Ole Madison), Arnt (married Ida Skattebo), Ida (died at the age of 32 years), Tilda (married William Christenson), Gena (died at the age of 6 years), Adolph (married Thora Olson), Gertie (married Ole Olson), Andrea (married Alfred Anderson), John (died at the age of 12 years), and Arnt (died at the age of 8 years at Grafton). Gena Madison is the only surviving child and is now in her 80's. She still lives alone in her home in Camrose.



Moe family: Ida, Arnt, Tilda (Christenson), Adolph, Andrea (Anderson), Gertie (Olson). Sitting: Marit (Mother), Gena (Madison), John (Father).

When the Moe family arrived by train at Wetaskiwin, after a long journey from North Dakota, they had all their equipment, supplies, and animals with them as the train was equipped to carry everything.

Wetaskiwin was later the Moes' shopping center for supplies. To travel to that town, a distance of twenty-five miles, they had to use ox cart and horses. This trip now seems to be a daily journey for many people, taking only about half an hour. Back then, a trip like that was seldom taken, unless short of supplies, because it could take over a week to complete.

The Moes' took in many travellers at night, because the path from Bardo to Wetaskiwin was not far from their home. John and Marit had enough children to more than fill their home, but still welcomed many guests.

John Moe, along with the other settlers, came to the conclusion that there were enough kids in the area to have a school built. All the men in the community got together to haul logs from White Water Lake



Grandma Moe milking her cow.

(west of the present Hay Lakes) to Thore Grue, who cut them at his sawmill. Mr. Grue also made furniture for the school. In 1898, the school house was built and classes began. This was the first school in the Strathcona area and the people named it Thordensk-jold School, after a Norwegian sailor. This rough log building was sided, and it still stands, being used by the Dyck family as a garage. The first teacher was



Grandma Moe feeding chickens.

William Gambol, who received a salary of \$45.00 per month. The school year lasted about 126 days and went from January to June. In the first years of the school, three of the Moe children, Gertie, Andrea, and Adolph, were in attendance. John Moe served as a trustee while the school was in its early years.

Ole Bakken owned some land which is now situated in the heart of Camrose. John Moe rented and farmed this land from Ole, and years later, when his son Arnt retired from the farm, he bought a house and lived on this very land, now a street past St. Frances Xavier Roman Catholic Church.

Families didn't have much money then, and it was hard to get supplies. A dollars worth of sugar (12 pounds) had to last a family for the whole winter. When a family went to buy coffee, green coffee beans were all that the store sold. People then had to roast and grind their own coffee. Roast barley was also sometimes used for coffee.

Around the year 1900, John Moe received a brand from the Department of Agriculture. The brand, O C U, became well known in the area. This original branding iron was found in debris on the old homestead by Martin Hendrickson, while helping Rod Skaret, and is now in the possession of the Norman Moe Family.

The main meeting place in the community was the church. All the people in the area became involved. The first Lutheran Church service was held in March, 1895, by the Reverend Bersvend Anderson of Bardo, at the home of Thore Grue. Services were held in many different homes until the congregation began meeting in Thordenskjold School. The Scandia Lutheran Congregation was founded in 1901, with the following people present: Thore Grue, John Moe, Ole Movold, H. Lomnes, Jacob Lunde, John Broen, G. O. Hendrickson, C. Kelstad, and Martin Steen. These people, and their families, were the first members (charter members) of the Scandia congregation.

In 1900, the women of the congregation formed a



Grandma Moe, her children and their spouses.

Ladies Aid with Marit Moe as the first secretary. This group of women made, and sold, many knitted items, as well as quilts, to make money for the church.

It's too bad we can't pay the land taxes that they paid back then, \$0.45 per acre. The homesteaders had to pay a stock tax of \$10.00 per horse and \$6.00 a head for cattle.

The settlers sometimes found it hard for their families to meet, but, at any opportunity, they would all gather together for visiting.

At the time I am writing this, there are over 200 direct descendants on the family tree of John and Marit Moe. The Norman Moe family is the only remaining family of Moes' that still live in the Armena district. They reside about one mile from the original homestead.

John Moe's youngest son, Arnt, had one son who died in infancy. Adolph had five sons, three of which died in infancy, and only one son that married. That son, Norman, was left to carry on the Moe name. He had one son, yours truly, Darren Moe, and now I am left to carry on the family name.

Life was hard for the pioneers and I am very proud to be a descendant of one of the families that helped develop the Armena district, and make it a wonderful place to live.

Adolph Moe Family History by Norman Moe

Adolph Moe was born on June 3, 1889 in Grafton, North Dakota. He was the third son, and fourth child, of John and Marit Moe. In 1895, he immigrated with his parents to Armena. They arrived in Wetaskiwin by train and journeyed to the Armena district, where his father took a homestead on the NE ¼ of Section 4-48-21 W4. Adolph was 6 years old when his family came to Armena. He worked with his father on the homestead for several years. During his teen-age years, he worked for a time with survey crews doing land survey in northern Alberta.



Adolph Moe returned to the site of his homestead at Whitecourt after 45 years and found his log house still standing.

In 1913 Adolph and a few of his friends loaded up wagons with supplies, and went to Whitecourt and filed on homesteads there. He continued working his land for the next three years and proved up and sold it in the fall of 1916.

In 1917 Adolph married Thora Olson, who had come to the Armena district in 1902 with her father Ole and brother Anton. After their marriage, they farmed land east of Armena, just north of Camrose, for a few years. In 1922 they sold out their horses and equipment, and went to work as Manager-foreman for a New York lawyer by the name of Langlen Thompson, who owned land south of Armena. The Headquarters was on the farm where Jim Welda now lives. Adolph would tell many funny incidents that occurred during this time as he tried to train the young men from the streets of New York that his boss would send out to work for him on the farm. Most of them had never seen a horse or had any idea of what farming was all about. Dad said he enjoyed his work for Thompson, but the biggest problem he had, was to write, and mail a letter every week to Thompson,



Norman, Adeline, Eileen, Maynard, Thora, and Adolph.

to report on the work being done and progress that was being made. Adolph and Thora continued to work for Mr. Thompson for a few years, then they bought the South-east quarter of 16-48-21 W4 from Ed. Hendrickson, and started farming on his own. They farmed, and lived on this land the rest of their lives, even after they sold it to their son Norman.

Thora died in 1964 and Adolph in 1972.

Adolph and Thora had a family of seven children. Three sons died in infancy. Orvel in 1918, Arnold in 1926, and Ordin in 1930. Surviving children are Maynard, Eileen, Norman and Adelene.

Maynard Moe was born in 1919. He attended school at Thordenskjold and Camrose Lutheran College. In 1936-37 he worked for a time for Paul Mose-son at the Malmo Store. In the early 1940s he took basic Army training in Camrose, then farmed with his father for awhile, and going to Edmonton to work in the wintertime. He then was a grain buyer for the Alberta Wheat Pool for a few years. In 1949 he purchased the Armena General Store, which he operated until 1953, when he sold it to Raynold Thron-son. He then moved to Edmonton, where he still lives, and is employed by Lovseths Limited.



Maynard Moe.

Eileen Moe was born in 1924. She also attended Thordenskjold school for elementary years, then stayed with her cousin Alpha (Olson) Osness and attended Kingman High school. She attended C.L.B.I. in Camrose, then took a Secretarial course and worked in Edmonton and Saskatoon. In 1945 Eileen married Edward Salte of Torquay, Saskatche-wan. Ed was an accountant for the Federal Govern-ment (recently retired), and as a result, they lived in various places in Canada, namely, Saskatoon, Van-



Ed and Eileen (Moe) Salte, Heather, David, Maureen, and Dawn.

couver, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and Regina, where they now live. Ed and Eileen have four children.

Heather Salte was born in 1948. She is married to John Girgan and they have two children, Kyle and Shane. They live in Frontier, Saskatchewan.

Dawn Salte was born in 1950. She is married to Terry Friggstad, and also lives in Frontier. They have three children, Aaron, Lindsay and Jesse.

David Salte was born in 1956 and is married to Jenny D'Eon. They live in Smith Falls, Ontario and have a little girl named Leia.

Maureen Salte, born in 1958, is married to Wes Olson and live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and have a daughter, Bobbi-Jean.

Adelene Moe was born in 1936. Like all the other Moe kids before her, she went to the Thordenskjold school. Then she attended Armena, C.L.C., C.L.B.I. and the Royal Alexandra School of Nursing



Telmar and Adeline (Moe), Marla, Paul and Garth Sartison.

in Edmonton. She worked as an R.N. in Edmonton and Red Deer before her marriage to Telmor Sartison in 1959. They lived in Edmonton, and then in Camrose, while Telmor took university courses at C.L.C. Then they moved back to Edmonton, to attend the University of Alberta. When Telmor decided to go to Seminary, the family moved again, this time to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. After Ordination, they served a congregation at Jansen, Sask., before moving to Calgary to become pastor of Faith Lutheran Church. Addy works at the Bethany Hospital. Their children are all away from home now, with **Marla**, (born in 1960) working in Edmonton. **Garth**, (born in 1962) taking his second year of university at C.L.C. **Paul**, (born in 1964) taking his first year university at C.L.C. in Camrose.

Norman Moe came into this world in 1932. After attending school at Thordenskjold and Armena, went off to Camrose Lutheran College (where he met Enid), and C.L.B.I. in Camrose.

Scouting, hunting, fishing and sports were his main childhood activities, when he wasn't helping out around the farm.

His first job took him to the Jo-Ar-Cam oilfield as a Battery Operator, for a short time. Then he decided to make farming his way of life and began to work with his father and also rent land from his brother, Maynard. Later, after he was married, he bought the farm from his parents, and still farms there (about one mile from the old homestead of John Moe).



Norman Moe family. Back, Left to Right: Bob and Leanne Wickstrom, Darren Moe, Sherine and Steven Leiper. Sitting: Enid and Norman Moe.

Norman worked for several years at Stelco pile mill in Camrose. When he quit there, he started driving a school bus for the County of Camrose full time. He had been a spare driver for them for several years. He enjoys picking up the children east of Armena and taking them to the Hay Lakes school.

In 1954, he married Enid Martin from Donald, Alberta. They have three children, Sherine, Leanne and Darren. When Enid felt she had time on her hands because the children were nearly grown, she decided to return to the work force, and is now the Bookstore Manager at Camrose Lutheran College in Camrose.

Sherine Moe was born in 1956. She attended school in Armena, Hay Lakes, C.L.C. for grade twelve and one year of university, and then to N.A.I.T. in Edmonton. While attending high school, she worked for two summers in Camrose for Parks and Recreation, cutting grass on the city parks. Then while at N.A.I.T., worked at the Edmonton Sporting Goods Store. After completing her X-ray-Lab Technician course, finished her interning at Bonnyville, Alberta. She then moved to Grand Center, where she spent one summer heading the student STEP program for the town. Then she worked at the Cold Lake Hospital, until leaving for a four month tour of Europe. She is now back at Grand Center, and on December 19, 1981 will marry Steven Lieper, who owns and operates his own roofing business there.

Leanne Moe was born in 1959. Her school years were spent in Armena, Hay Lakes and C.L.C. for grade twelve and one year of university. Throughout her growing up years, managed to break both arms and an ankle. Summer employment for her also included working for the City of Camrose, cutting grass in the city parks for three summers. She has worked at Loveseths in Edmonton as a telex and computer operator, and more recently at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home. She and a friend spent a holiday in Hawaii in 1980. In the fall of 1981, Leanne returned to school, taking Radiology at N.A.I.T. In April of 1981 she married Bob Wickstrom of Edmonton (formerly of Riley), and they live in the city where Bob is employed by A.M.A. Bob, like Leanne, enjoys all kinds of sports.

Darren Moe (pioneer John Moe's son's son's son) was born in 1962. His schooling took him to Armena and Hay Lakes for twelve years. Like his dad, his boyhood interests have included, hunting, fishing, trapping and sports, particularly hockey. He played Representative hockey with the Camrose Minor hockey program for several years. Summer employment for him has included helping at the elevator in Armena and working at Micquelon Lake Provincial Park. His job at Stelco gave way to a



Darren leading off on a Wilderness trip at Jasper.

chance to go to Jasper Park to work with an Outfitter as a wrangler and guide, taking guests by horseback and packhorse for five day wilderness trips to Amethyst Lake in the Tonquin Valley, which is in the heart of the Canadian Rockies, 20 miles south-west of the town of Jasper. He has enjoyed his summer very much, and plans to return to the same job next summer.

The Arnt Moe Family

Arnt John Moe was born on January 12, 1897, of parents Marit and John Moe who were one of the earliest settlers in the district now known as Armena.

Arnt was the second youngest in a family of 10 children, which included 6 girls and 4 boys; with 2 sisters and 1 brother pre-deceasing Arnt.

He was baptized at home and later confirmed in Scandia Lutheran Church on November 19, 1911. He attended public school at Thordenskjold School.

On November 10, 1917, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Calgary. He served in England with C.A.M.I.E. The war ended before he was in any active service, but he remained in the Reserve Army until September 19, 1919.



The Moe home.

After returning home, he and his brother, Adolph, worked on a farm west of Armena with Tom Thompson, a nephew of a New York lawyer. Later he rented the Edwin Lyseng farm, just north of Lyseng School. His sister, Ida, kept house for him.

On December 29, 1922, he married Ida Skattebo of Camrose. They lived for a few months on the Herman Hanson farm where Arnt looked after cattle for Oscar Thompson.

In April, 1923, they moved to Kingman and rented land from Oscar Thompson and lived there for a year.

In February, 1924, a son, Earle, was born. They moved back to Armena in April, 1924, and stayed for a while with Arnt's parents. Later his parents bought a house in Camrose and moved there and Arnt bought the home farm. Later the Tom Roholt quarter adjoining was purchased.

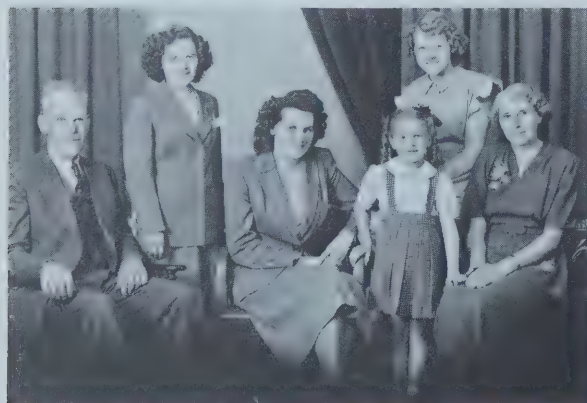
This was home for many years and they were part of the community which revolved mostly around church, school, and community affairs.

In October, 1925, Ardis was born. In the spring of 1926 Earle passed away at the age of 2 years and 2 mos., leaving a big loss in their little family.

When Ardis was old enough for school, Rita Neal came to join the family and remained a foster daughter and a companion for Ardis. The two little girls attended Busk school.

In May, 1933, Lois was born, and in November, 1941, Darlene arrived, making the family complete with 4 girls. Ardis, Lois, and Darlene attended Camrose Lutheran College, and Rita attended the Camrose High School to complete their education. Darlene also took a course in nursing and graduated from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in 1962.

In 1953 Arnt was not well, so they decided to leave the farm and bought a house in Camrose and moved from Armena in November. In the spring they had a sale and sold the farm to Art Olafson.



Arnt Moe family. Arnt, Rita, Ardis, Darlene, Lois, Ida.

Arnt drove a school bus for a few years for the County, but due to ill health had to retire. He was in ill health for a few years, often in hospital and the last few months in Bethany Hospital. He passed away on November 20, 1968.

Families

Ardis married Floyd Melsness of Preeceville, Saskatchewan, on June 19, 1948. Ardis has spent all her married years in Saskatchewan. They farmed the Melsness home place for many years and later moved to Wynyard, Saskatchewan, where they still live and where Floyd is an Advisor for the Farm Credit Corporation. They have 4 children: Corinne married Neil Shantz, of Guernsey, Saskatchewan, and they presently live on an acreage about 10 miles from Saskatoon, where Neil is in his last year of Veterinary Medicine, at the University of Sask. They have 3 children: Troy, Ryan, and Reagan. Bonnie married



Ardis' family.

Carl Huitt, and lives in Mississauga, Ontario. She is working for Central Mortgage & Housing, and Carl is an Artist — they have no family. Brian married Barbara Roste of Vancouver, B.C., and they now live on the home farm at Preeceville. In partnership with his brother-in-law they operate a dairy business and also farm. They have two little girls: Crystal and Jolene. Mark, Ardis's youngest, is in his second year at the University of Sask. and studying to be a meteorologist.

Rita married Henry Larson of Daysland on May 21, 1950. They lived in Edmonton for a while, and later moved to Daysland where he farmed and still owns the farm. Later they moved to Camrose and at present she works at Rosehaven, as receptionist and secretary. They have 2 children: Daryl and Diane. Daryl is married to Judy Drever and they live in Killam, where Daryl is employed with Merland Exploration as an overseer of gas wells in that area. They have 3 children: Neil, Rebecca, and Meagan.

Diane married Ron Branton and they live north of Camrose, on the Branton farm. They have 2 children: Lynndel and Leslie.

Lois married Wilfred Aspenes on August 4, 1956. They lived in Camrose for the first 10 years and since then have been farming the Aspenes home farm 7 miles east of Camrose. Lois also works part-time as a secretary at Camrose Lutheran College. They have 2 children: Brenda and Warren. Brenda is in her last year of nurses' training at the Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton. She was married on July 4, 1981, to Allan Schoenknecht of the Hay Lakes district and they make their home in Edmonton where Allan is an apprentice-carpenter. Warren will be completing his Grade XII in 1982.



The Wilfred Aspenes family. Brenda, Lois, Wilfred and Warren.

Darlene married Alvin Anderson on December 1, 1962. They have 2 children: Kyle and Fraser. A 2nd daughter, Nancy, was tragically killed in a traffic accident in front of their home in Grande Prairie, in January of 1975. She was 3 years old at the time. Darlene's have lived in Edmonton, Beaverlodge, Lahr — Germany for 2 years while Alvin taught school for the Canadian Armed Forces, and for the past 7 years have lived in Grande Prairie. Alvin received his Doctorate in Elementary Education from the University of Alberta in 1979, and has been



Kyla, Alvin, Fraser and Darlene (Moe) Anderson.

a math consultant for the Alberta Provincial Government. They are now in the process of moving to Medicine Hat where Alvin will be a math-science consultant for the Medicine Hat School District. Darlene has been nursing on a part-time basis. Kyla will enter Grade X and Fraser Grade VII in the fall of 1981.

Ida celebrated her 80th birthday in December of 1979 with an open-house at her daughter, Lois's. She continues to live in her comfortable and friendly Shoreline Apartment in Camrose.

William James Moore by James W. Moore

Will and Selma Moore, together with two daughters, Lillian and Helen and two sons, Glenn and Dale, moved to the North Bittern Lake area about 1915, from Camrose where they had lived but a short time, having moved there from Wilkie, Saskatchewan.

They purchased one quarter of higher land where they made their building site, and another quarter of lower land, with the reasoning that in a wet year the higher one would produce a good crop and the lower one when it was dry, however the years proved otherwise as our Alberta weather can give us both drought and flood in the same year.

The farm wasn't that productive the first years, however twin boys, James and Jack were produced in



Will and Selma Moore.

1919. Times were tough but by producing most of our food for the table and by a lot of hard work, a comfortable and happy life was had.

During the years on the farm, Will was very interested in new machinery and owned one of the first tractors in the community, a three wheeled "Case". He also had two "Catepillar" tractors, the latter one being used extensively for road building and operated by son Glenn. In the early thirties, Will operated a Fuel Oil Retailers' business — trucking the fuel from Turner Valley. The fuel was commonly referred to as "Skunk Gas" because of the unpleasant smell. He took time to serve on the local school board, Busk School, for many years. Will was also a carpenter and built numerous buildings in the Camrose area, some of which are still standing. Will passed away in February, 1948.

Selma Moore (nee Nelson) served her community and church well with her kind deeds, churning many crocks of butter, by hand, for bachelor neighbours and doing much fine sewing for family, friends and her church, Fridhem Lutheran. In February, 1950, Selma passed away after a lengthy illness.



Glenn, James, Jack, Dale. Helen Moore (standing).

Lillian died in 1929 while in her third year of nurses training at the Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton.

Glenn married Margaret Hamilton in 1933 and left home to take up farming just a mile south of the home place, where he lived until the time of his passing in December, 1975.

Dale left home about 1935 and worked as a farm labourer in various places for a number of years and then settled in Edmonton until 1978 when he moved to Smith where he became ill and passed away in February of 1980.

Helen also left home about 1935 and worked in Edmonton for the Massey-Harris Company, Air Craft Repair and other places, returning to the home farm when Selma became ill. She remained on the farm and worked many years at Rosehaven, Camrose, until her passing in May, 1976.

James married Irene Jones in 1943 and in 1944 moved to a farm just south of Armena where they are still living.

Jack took over the home place after James got married but they continued to do their farming together until the time of his passing in April, 1975.

As the years passed, many changes were experienced. The farmstead has passed on to the different generations and still is in the Moore name, as Noel Moore now owns it and lives there.

Glenn Moore Family

Margaret Moore

I, Margaret Hamilton, was born in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario and came with my family the Alex Hamiltons, to the East Bittern Lake area, when I was one year old. At seven years of age I started school at the one room school known as Busk. Some of my early teachers were Miss Mabel Waterson, Miss Gunderson, Mrs. Eddie Lyseng, Miss Bell and Miss Telning.

It was at school, I met my future husband, Glenn



Glen Moore brushing.

Moore. I recall being quite impressed by his daring and good aim when he picked up a small stone and zinged one of my sisters on the head.

Glenn was born in Wilkie, Saskatchewan and came to Alberta as a young lad, living first in Camrose, then in the East Bittern Lake area. Glenn spent the years before he started school with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson.

Glenn and I obtained our public schooling at Busk, from there I finished my high school and normal school in Camrose.

Glenn and I were married in the early thirties at the height of the depression. We started a new farm-



Glen and Lillian Moore.

stead on S.W. ¼-33-47-21. Glenn's father, being a carpenter, built us a small house. My father helped dig a well. We were then all set to farm, determined to win out over low prices and the vagaries of our Alberta climate. That first year we had six to eight inches of wet snow on the 15th of May, which delayed seeding. A harsh killing frost occurred the last week of July, so our first crop was not a great success.

I had two priorities for that first home, a fenced yard and window boxes. The petunias bloomed beautifully in the window boxes but my first flower bed left a lot to be desired. I had hacked that first bed out of the tough prairie sod with an old broken butcher knife. Glenn and I had a spring ritual which we followed faithfully for many years, which was to plant at least a few small spruce trees around the yard. Today when I see the towering trees we planted close to fifty years ago, I remember the many happy outings we had finding the young seedlings.

Our neighbors of the early years besides Glenn's and my family were the Andereason brothers, A. Wicklands, Herb Hamels, J. Wylies, and after 1934, my sister May and her husband, Vernon Stavne.

We raised a family of five boys, Allen, Harvey, David, Merton and Brian.

Allen began his schooldays at Busk School and his teacher was Miss Marion Johnson. For transportation, he rode behind the saddle on Donnie Hamel's old black horse. When Busk School was moved and renamed Thordenskjold 11, Allan attended there until Armena School was opened. He then went by bus there. Following school years he worked at various jobs, and on oil rigs. He also spent some time as a forest ranger west of Edson. He has been employed by Hudson Bay Gas and Oil for the last twenty-three years. He is married to Dorine Manning and they lived for several years in Olds, now they make their home in High River, Alberta. They have four children, Donna, Ken, Dale and Melinda. Donna now Mrs. Mark O'Leary, lives in Drumheller. Ken is married to Marion McKay and they reside in Calgary. Dale and Melinda are still at home.

Our second son Harvey, attended Thordenskjold 11 and Armena schools. Following his school years he joined the Canadian Armed Forces when he was seventeen years of age. For three years he was stationed at Chilliwack in British Columbia. While there he met and married Penie Schultz. After his discharge from the services, he and Penie moved to her home town of Neville, Saskatchewan. They then moved to Olds, where Harv was employed with Mobil Oil. While there in 1959, at twenty-four years of age, Harvey was killed in an oil field accident, leaving a young wife and three small children, Philip, Yvonne, and Roxann. Yvonne married Randy

Doherty. She now lives in Red Deer and is taking nurses training, she has two children, Kyle and Sara. Roxann, now Mrs. Stan Good lives in Red Deer. Phillip, following his grandfather's footsteps, works with heavy industrial machinery. His home is in Calgary.

David's public schooling was obtained at Thordenskjold 11 and Armena and his high school at Camrose Lutheran College in Camrose. David worked for several years in Edmonton coming home between shifts to help at the farm. Having bought land of his own in 1965, he came home to farm in partnership with his Dad. In 1980 he went to Tanzania, East Africa, where he is employed by the Canadian Government with Canadian International Development Agency.

Merton's schooling was obtained at Armena, Hay Lakes and Camrose Composite High School in Camrose. Before his marriage, he worked in British Columbia and Northern Manitoba, at Lynn Lake and Thompson. He and his wife, Tracy now live in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They have two children, Paul and Rebecca. Merton's hobby has been bike racing, which he now does professionally. He has many trophies but his biggest thrill was obtained at Daytona Beach, Florida in 1981.

Our youngest son Brian received his schooling in Armena, finishing his high school in Hay Lakes and Camrose. He then spent three years at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, graduating as an air flow technician. In 1969, he and Deanna Deary were married. They first lived in Edmonton, then Sherwood Park. In 1979 they sold their house in Sherwood Park and established a new farmstead on what is known as their Busk homestead. Here they are concentrating on egg production. They have three children, Brent, Alayna and Marlene.

Glenn passed away December 11, 1975 following heart surgery and I'm now alone.

The James Moore Family by Irene (Jones) Moore

We were married December 23, 1943. We didn't set up our own home as I was teaching at Dried Meat Lake School and only came home for weekends, which we spent at Jim's home. Then in the fall of 1944, we moved to what was known as the Jack Johnson farm, S.W. ¼ of 1-48-21-W4, directly south of Armena. This has been our home ever since.

Jim continued to farm with his twin brother Jack. There was lots of moving of machinery from one farm to the other.

In 1951 Jim began driving school bus and continued to do so until the end of May, 1981. He took a

great number of children to school and home again through those thirty years.

In the fall of 1961, I went back teaching at Armena School. When it closed in 1975, our staff was moved to Hay Lakes School, where I taught one term.

We have three daughters and one son in our family.



James and Irene Moore and family, 1959. Shirley, Wendy, Valerie, Noel.

Shirley Josephine was born April 13, 1945. She went to Armena School and on to Hay Lakes for High School. She took nurse's training at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. On June 26, 1965, she married Doug Anderson. After living in Edmonton for several years, they moved to the West Coast where Shirley worked at Langley Memorial Hospital. They have one daughter, Danielle. Now Shirley is divorced and she and her daughter live in Aldergrove, B.C. She is working as a nurse for Public Health.

Wendy Lyn was born January 3, 1947. She attended Armena School and then went to Hay Lakes for Grades nine to eleven. She married Garry Meadahl on March 27, 1965. They have two daughters, Ronda and Renae. They presently live in Camrose where Wendy is employed at Camrose Stationery and Garry is a car and truck salesman. They at one time lived in Armena, in the oldest teacherage. Ronda started school there and her teacher was her grandmother, whom she always called Mrs. Moore. (She never did make a mistake!)

Valerie Irene was born November 2, 1950. She attended Armena School, going on to Hay Lakes. Then all the girls in her class decided to go to Camrose for their Grade Twelve. She then went to Camrose Lutheran College and University of Alberta for her teacher's training and Bachelor of Education.



The barbecue is over at Jim Moore's, 1980.

She married Larry Nielson, (Emil Lyseng's grandson) on May 16, 1970. So she said, "I'm now related to most of the people I grew up with." They have two daughters, Leandra and Erin. They now live in Camrose where Valerie teaches school and Larry is a farm machinery salesman.

Noel James was born December 28, 1953. He attended Armena School and then Hay Lakes for Grade Nine. He went to Camrose Composite for High School. He attended Camrose Lutheran College for a year and a half, intending to go into accounting but then decided he couldn't sit behind a desk for the rest of his life. He worked at several jobs and now is employed with Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. He lives on the farm that was the original "Moore home". He and his Dad do the farming together. Noel and his fiancée, Wendy Kreamer, have set April 24, 1982 as their wedding day.

Scandia Church has been our church home through the years. Jim has held various positions on the council. I have worked with the Lutheran Church Women. We have enjoyed the wonderful Christian fellowship in this congregation.

We enjoy a number of sports. Jim likes to play horseshoe. He was the only "Grandpa" on the first Armena Slow Pitch Team. We have both curled a bit and have tried golfing, too. However, we have spent quite a few hours sitting on the bleachers watching hockey, baseball and football, especially if Noel is playing. We like going camping with our family and have had many good times going to many different places. But no matter where we go or what we've done, it is always good to come back home.

The Ole Movold Family

Ole T. Movold was born in Trondjhem, Norway in 1848. He was the eldest son of Tobias Movold and Marit Rostbakken. Ole, with his brothers Thron and



Movold home, 1942.

Karinus, and his sister Kirsti, came to the areas of Dalton and Fosston, Minnesota. Their father, Tobias, had the first store in Fosston, also his first homestead where part of Fosston is now. Ole's father was instrumental in making several trips to Norway to encourage settlers to come to America — the "Land of Hope and Glory", where there were more opportunities and promises of free land.

Ole too got the "America Fever" and after meeting and marrying Ingrid Saether of Tufsingdalen, Norway in 1881, they immigrated to Minnesota the



Tilda, Inga, Lena, Amanda Movold.

same year. To this union Thomas and Ingval were born. Ingval passed away in infancy and Ingrid died shortly after his birth. In 1884 Ole married Gea Grue.

Gea was born in Roros, Norway, and at the age of nineteen she left Norway and came to Dalton, in Ottertail County, Minnesota. There she met and married Ole Movold in 1884. While living here a son Ingvald was born and Inga, Tilda and Lena. They decided to leave Minnesota and come to Canada, settling in the Armena district in 1894, becoming one of the earliest settlers in the Armena area. They moved back to the United States where two years were spent in Georgia. Here Amanda was born. They returned again to Armena as Gea found Georgia's climate unbearable due to the heat. On returning to Armena they continued farming till 1922. Oscar, Arthur, William, Martin, Gilbert and Clifford were born here. On March 12, 1922 Ole passed away. Gea continued on the farm with her family till Thomas took over the farm.

In 1925 Gea married Nicholas Hustad of Edberg, and lived there until his death in 1935. The later years of her life were spent around Hay Lakes and district. Gea passed away at her home in Hay Lakes on May

25, 1945 at the age of eighty-two years. This was nineteen days after Gilbert's death in Holland on May 6, 1945.

Inga Movold Broen

Inga Movold was born in 1888 in Minnesota, and with her parents and other members of the family came to Alberta and settled with them on the Armena homestead. She was baptized and confirmed in the States, and received most of her education there. In 1912 she married Einar Broen. They farmed in the Miquelon Lake area for several years. Einar passed away in 1941 and Inga continued on the farm with her son Bennie. Her family consisted of eight children. Gladys married Helmer Anderson and they are presently living in Camrose. Oscar married Signe Wind-er. They make their home at Vavenby, British Columbia. Ivan and Inez were twins. Ivan married Dorothy Druce and they reside on their farm in the Tofield area. Inez married Arthur Beatty and lived at Wildwood. Arthur passed away in February, 1979 and Inez in August 1979. Cora married George West-lake and they live at Peers, after living in the Tofield area for several years. Hazel married Bruce Ray. They too resided on a farm at Tofield and later moved



Ole Movold family. Back, Left to Right: Oscar, Inga, Tom, Art, Bill. Centre: Ole, Martin, Amanda, Tilly, Clifford, Lena. Front: Gilbert, Grace Olafson (Lena's), Gea Movold. Taken in 1916, prior to Art's departure overseas in World War I.

to Peers where they farm. Bennie sold the farm at Miquelon Lake and bought a farm at Peers, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Bruce Ray. Gordon married Rosemary Lee and resides at Wetaskiwin.

Inga passed away in St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose in 1969.

Ingvar Movold

Ingvar was born in 1886 in Ottertail County, Minnesota. He was the eldest son of Ole and Gea Movold, and came to Alberta with his parents in 1892. He lived at Armena till the age of seventeen, when he passed away of a ruptured appendix in 1903.

Tilda Movold McPhee

Tilda was also born in Minnesota, in 1890. She came with her parents to Alberta as a young girl and grew up in the Armena area. She married Jack McPhee, and they made their home in Camrose and Sedgewick where Jack was the elevator agent. Tilda passed away in 1916, of a kidney ailment, at the age of twenty-six years.

Amanda Movold Johnson

Amanda Movold was born in Georgia, U.S.A. in 1894, and at a very young age she came back with her parents to the homestead at Armena. There she received her education, was baptized and confirmed. She married Nester Johnson of Hay Lakes in 1919. They lived at Birch Island, British Columbia and



Lena (at back) Amanda and Inga Movold (sitting).

Vancouver where Nester was employed on the railroad. They had three children — a daughter Karen who died in infancy, and sons Irwin and Gary. Irwin married Marie Grant and they reside at Kamloops, B.C. Gary married Eileen Robinson and they made their home in Vancouver. Gary passed away in 1978. Amanda passed away in an Edmonton hospital in 1944.

Lena Movold Olafson

Lena Movold was born in Minnesota in 1892. She too came as a young child with her family to Armena where she grew up and attended school. She married Olaf Olafson and they made their home in the Hay Lake area. They had three children namely; Grace, James and Billy. Grace married Frank Cotterell. Grace passed away in 1934 of tuberculosis, and is buried in a Kamloops cemetery. James did not marry. He enlisted during World War Two and served in the Royal Canadian Army with the First Canadian Survey Regiment. He also saw action in the Italian, North African, and Sicilian Campaigns. After the war, in 1947, he joined the Air Force, and served in the Defence Department for several years. James is presently living in Edmonton where he is employed with Stelco. Billy, died in infancy. Lena passed away in Camrose Hospital in 1967.

Oscar Movold

Oscar was born in 1896 at Armena. He was the first child baptized in the Bardo Lutheran Church by Reverend B. Anderson and assistant N.A. Bjelde. The sponsors were Thore Grue, Beret Grue, and Ole Arisen.

His early boyhood was spent around Armena. He later went to British Columbia and worked for the C.N.R. at Blackpool. Here he met Margaret Loughton whom he married in 1924 in Edmonton. He spent several years working in the gold mines at Chu Chua and Bralorne, B.C. During the war he worked in the shipyards in Vancouver as a riveter. At that time they lived in North Vancouver. Retirement years were spent at Gillies Bay, Texada Island, and Vernon, B.C. Oscar and Margaret had three sons. Ronald was killed on active service while with the Royal Canadian Air Force, in 1944. He is buried on the Isle of Man. Their son Albert married Anita McEachern. They have five children, Ronald, Cynthia, Michele, Craig, and Mark. They make their home at Chetwynd, B.C. The youngest son Arthur married Doreen Mainse. There were two children — Sheri Lee and Christopher. He later married Kathleen Hay and they had two children — Jennifer and Alyson. They live at Vernon, B.C.

Oscar passed away in the Vernon Hospital on December 16, 1980 at the age of eighty-four years.

Arthur Movold

Arthur was born in 1898 at Armena, the seventh child of Ole and Gea Movold. He attended Thordenskjold School and spent his early years in the Armena District. During World War One, he joined the Canadian Army and went overseas in 1916 with a Scandinavian Regiment from Winnipeg. While overseas he served in the twenty-seventh Battalion in France. Upon his return from overseas in 1919, he worked in a garage in Camrose. In 1920 he met and married Lena Peterson of Viking. They settled on their farm three miles east of Hay Lakes. Here Art farmed for forty years, retiring in 1960. Lena passed away in 1933. Seven children were born to this union. Orville married Lorene Radcliffe of Peers. They are now living in Sardis, B.C. Clifford married Lydia Barth of Camrose and they are residing in Edmonton. Vernon married Joan Scherck and lives in Prince Rupert, B.C. Judith became Mrs. Dave Sanders, Vera — Mrs. Joe Woodthorpe, and Thelma — Mrs. Robert Birce. All three girls live in or near Vancouver. A son, Marvin, died in infancy.

Arthur's second marriage was to Julia Sanderlin of Strome. They had one son Wayne who married Valerie Riches of Edmonton. They are presently living in Camrose, after living on the family farm for a number of years. The farm is now owned by Carl Selin of Hay Lake. Arthur passed away in 1973 in Camrose, and Julia in 1975, also in Camrose.

William Movold

William was born at the Armena homestead in 1901. He attended Thordenskjold School and grew to manhood in this area. He worked at various jobs in the Armena — Hay Lake districts. Several years were spent working in creameries in various parts of Alberta. In 1930 he married Ida Flohr of Edberg. Ida passed away in 1949. Several years were spent on his farm at Seba Beach after he retired. Bill and Ida had five children. Dolores who passed away in 1934 at Bonnyville of diphtheria. Geneva, with her mother, passed away in a car accident in 1969 at the age of twenty-two years. Roger married Pat Guest of Edmonton. They have three children; Dawn, Billy, and Derek. They make their home at Hudson Hope, B.C., where Roger is an electrical engineer with British Columbia Hydro. Allan has three children, Pamela, Randy and Coral. Allan lives in Vancouver.

Bill then sold his farm at Seba Beach and moved to the Senior Citizens' Home at Evansburg. There, in 1977, he met and married Dorothy Gunn, and continued to reside in the home. William passed away November 2, 1980 at Stony Plain Hospital.

Martin Movold

Martin, the second youngest of the family, was also born at Armena in 1903. He received his educa-



Martin receives his gold medallion September 1, 1980. Thelma, Constable Peter Murdock, and Martin.

tion at Thordenskjold School, and spent his youth in the Armena — Hay Lake area. He worked for a time on the railroad in the Hay Lakes District, and later in the harvest fields of Saskatchewan. Other jobs took him to the lumber mills in Alberta and British Columbia. He also bored wells with the Pearson Brothers in the surrounding area. In 1926 Martin bought land from the Hudson Bay Company and began farming a few miles west and north of Armena. He was assisted for a few years by Gilbert before he moved to Vancouver.

In 1933 Martin married Thelma Kjorlien of Camrose, who had taught school at Swan Hill. Martin continued farming. As there was a scarcity of teachers at the time, Thelma helped out by teaching at Swan Hill, Brandland and Hay Lakes Districts. Thelma retired in 1971. Martin continued farming until 1972 when he rented his farm to Clarence Huebner. However, they continued to live on the farm until 1976 when they moved to Fort Saskatchewan. Martin passed away September 27, 1980. Thelma continues to live at the Fort.

Five children comprised their family. Betty married Vernon Jones. They have five children; Dennis, Douglas, Derek, Raylene, and Cynthia. Betty and Vernon live at Spruce Grove.

Maxine married Ronald Knopp. They have three children — Sandra, Kerri and Kevin. Maxine and Ronald reside in Edmonton.

Joyce married James Thompson. They have two girls, Terri and Judy. They, too, live in Edmonton.

Rodney married Eleanor Hill. They have four children — Grant, Tracie, David and Wade. They make their home in Fort Saskatchewan.

Melvin married Donna Maxwell. They have two children — Kirsten and Kyle. They, too, live in Fort Saskatchewan.

The Twins — Gilbert and Clifford Movold

The twins, Gilbert and Clifford, were born in 1906 at Armena, Alberta.

Gilbert received the greater part of his public schooling at the Thordenskjold and a few years at the Swan Hill schools. Most of his boyhood was spent in the Armena and Hay Lakes Districts. Prior to enlistment he was employed in the mines of British Columbia and the shipyards in Vancouver. In October, 1942, he enlisted with the Canadian Army, later being transferred to the Royal Canadian Engineers. He proceeded overseas in July, 1943. On May 6, 1945, while he was stationed in Holland, he suffered fatal injuries of an accidental nature.

Clifford is the only surviving member of the Ole Movold family at the time of writing. He makes his home with his nephew Bennie Broen who lives at Peers, Alberta.

Sydney Murnane

History of Sydney Townsend Murnane by Hilda Anderson RRI Camrose

Sydney Murnane, my uncle was born in England on December 13, 1883, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Murnane, the fifth child of nine. In the year of 1911, he bought a quarter section of land 5-49-20-W4 in the Lundemo district. Coming from Norwich England with his sister Kathleen Mary (my mother) as housekeeper, he set up a farming operation. A copy of the land purchase from the Camrose Canadian April 27, 1911 page seven is enclosed. Prior to this he had farmed at Powhatton, Kansas, U.S.A. My mother kept house for him there. She often talked of the tornado like storms that occurred there, usually on a hot day when they were enjoying home made icecream so Uncle Sydney always took it with him to the storm cellar, where they stayed until the storm passed. Because they didn't like the storms, Sydney sold the land and came to Canada. The W. T. Powell in the write up is an uncle of Sydney and Kathleen.

While farming at Lundemo a sister Lilian and brother George came to visit them. Lilian took sick and a doctor came from Kingman. She was filling up with fluid and had to have it drained off and then he sent her to Edmonton for an operation. It's not known how long they stayed to visit but both returned to England. George didn't like farming. This September 1981, George's daughter and husband, Daphne and Laurie Gilbert came to visit and we took them to



House at Lundemo. Sydney Murnane with broom. Wife — Anne Kathleen Lillian Johnson Murnane.

Miquelon Lake and showed them where the post office of Lundeme was, but we didn't know the farm's location then.

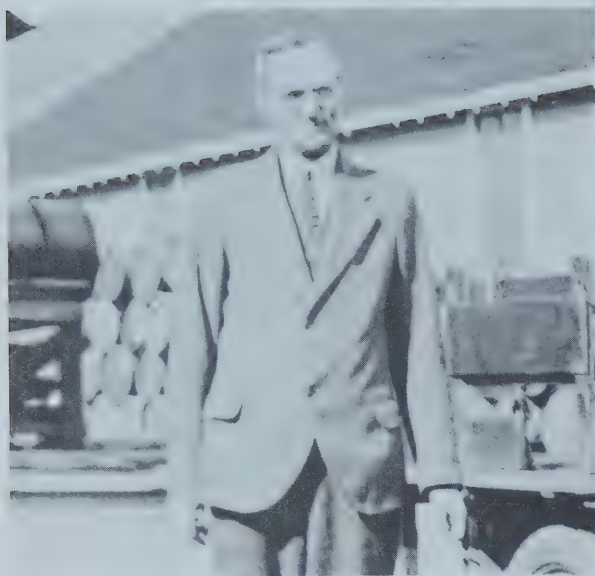
Sydney married Annie (Jansson) Johnson, daughter of Christina Olsen Pahlen Johnson, from the district and Kathleen moved to Camrose to find housekeeping duties. Annie passed away shortly after their marriage while Sydney was in Spirit River looking for more land. He sold the land at Lundemo and moved to Camrose.

On January 21, 1918 Sydney married Florence Rowsell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rowsell of Camrose. They farmed for a few years on the SE¼ 32-45-19-W4 until a fire destroyed their barn and house one Sunday when they were away. During this time they had a daughter Ada Mary, born December 1918 and a son Harold born May 1920. They sold the farm and purchased a house in Camrose, next door to Fred Rowsell. Sydney worked for the White Rose Oil Company. In June 1925 another son was born, called Clifford James.

On August 4, 1926 an accident occurred while Sydney was driving the oil truck, the motor stalled and the brakes failed going up a hill and the truck went back until it tipped over. Harold was riding with his father and he was killed. He is buried at the Camrose Cemetery. Sydney, Florence, Ada and Clifford spent the following six months in England with his mother, brothers and sisters.

In the spring he moved to Nelson, British Columbia to work for the Shell Oil Company. His next move was to Vancouver, British Columbia, where he did office work until he retired. His son Clifford says "you can look back in the books and see dad's beautiful writing."

He sold his house in Vancouver and bought a



Sydney Murnane at Nelson, B.C.

place at Parksville, Vancouver Island. His daughter Ada said he worked very hard cutting trees and doing heavy work that he was not used to doing. It was a very sad Christmas for the family in 1953 when Sydney passed away suddenly on December 22.

My sisters and I always looked forward to their visits to our farm. Our Uncle Sydney played games with us and sang comical songs to us. He lost all his music and songs in the fire. He was a wonderful brother, husband and father. His wife moved to Vancouver to be near her son, in her later years. She passed away May 27, 1968.

In 1939 Ada married Ted Matthews. They moved to Port Alberni, Vancouver Island where Ted worked in a lumber mill, becoming a foreman. They had four children. The twins are Derryl Sydney and Dennis Edward, followed by a son, Clifford Gordon and later a daughter Faye Elizabeth. Derryl married Norma Thronson, daughter of Eileen Thronson and the late Leonard Thronson of Winfield and they have four sons; Shane, Leonard and twins Paul Brian and Derryl Gene. Dennis married Clarene Grettum daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Grettum, Daresbury district south east of Camrose. They have a daughter Leslie, son Bobbie and another daughter Delphine.

Gordon married Veronica and they don't have any family. All families live at Port Alberni and Dennis, Derryl and Gordon all work in the same mill that their father was foreman of, until his retirement. Shane and Bobby are following their Dad and Grandfather's footsteps and working at the mill weekends and holidays while still going to school. Leslie is in Vancouver furthering her education. She stays with her great Uncle Clifford.

Faye married Oscar Salisbury and they live on a farm out of Dawson Creek. They have two boys David and Brian. Faye works as a secretary in Dawson Creek.

Clifford, son of Sydney, was in the forces during World War II. He was over in England and got to meet his father's relations including his grandmother who was in her nineties. He worked for Shell Oil Co., until his retirement. He married Norma Irene Wright. They had a family of four. Heather June married Billy So-do and they had a baby in 1981. Stephen married Joyce Esther Kessler and they have a daughter Amber Tamara. The other girls are Beth Ann and Lisa Grace. Clifford lives at Burnaby, British Columbia and works for the school board and Young Men's Christian Association. My mother Kathleen married Thomas Price in February 1916 and that history is written up in "Lure of the Homestead."

C. M. Nesvold Family

Christian Marius Nesvold, born in Trail County, North Dakota on December 18, 1882, was the only child of his family to venture to Canada in order to homestead. Leaving seven sisters and his mother and father behind, he left with his new bride, Gemanda Gilbertson, arriving in Camrose on September 15, 1913.

Gemanda was born in Norman County, North Dakota on May 3, 1893 and married Marius on December 31, 1912 in Halstad, Minnesota. Her father, Gilbert Ole Gilbertson, had come from Norway on a sailboat in 1860 and now she was going on an adventure of her own; one that would establish the Nesvold family in the Camrose area.

She travelled by herself on a passenger train that



Mr. and Mrs. Marius Nesvold.

brought her from Halstad to Winnipeg and on to Camrose. She was met by Lars Loveseth, who helped her find her husband, who was seated in a barber chair for his first Canadian shave and haircut. Marius had arrived by freight train, one hour earlier than Gemanda, with four horses, three cows, a crate of chickens, a binder, a drill, a walking plow, a sulky, a mower, a rake, and some household effects.

Grandpa Gilbertson had journeyed to Canada the previous spring; buying land and building a house and barn, after clearing four acres of brush by hand. This was to be the Nesvold homestead, W ½ of section 27-47-20 W4, four miles north of Camrose, where Gemanda and Marius would live, work hard, raise five children and farm until 1947. Marcus wheat was seeded on the four cleared acres and because of its slow maturing rate, it froze in the falls of 1916, 1917, and 1918. It was a disheartening beginning to farming in Canada! With the help of the Loveseth boys, Gemanda and Marius got settled and began preparing for winter by cutting wood. Marius continued to clear brush by hand all winter.

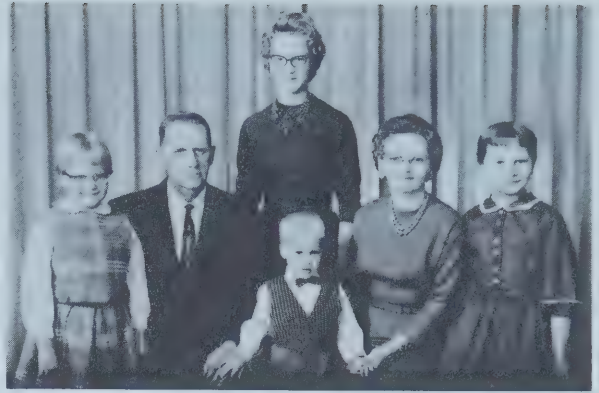
C. Gilbert was born on April 1, 1914, Millard on November 24, 1915, Earl on November 15, 1917, Helen on August 8, 1919 and Noel on April 17, 1930. All the children attended Baldenstein School. The family belonged to the Norwegian Lutheran Church where the children were baptized and confirmed. Gemanda, besides raising five children, was an avid gardener and active in ladies' groups of the church, holding many executive positions. For the children, one break from the hard work was swimming in the creek in the summer and skating on it in the winter.

Gilbert and Earl married and settled in the community to continue farming. Millard lost his life in 1943 as a wireless gunner while overseas. Helen worked for a time with J. A. Young and Company in Camrose. She is now Mrs. Phil Link and lives in Camrose. Her children Charlotte and Curtis Carlson, are two of Marius and Gemanda's ten grandchildren. Noel died, at eight years of age, on December 18, 1938. Gemanda died on December 3, 1947 and C. Marius died on March 28, 1959, after residing at Bethany Home for some time.

C. Gilbert Nesvold Family

In 1934, Gilbert bought the Ole Rosendahl homestead, N.W. ¼ of section 34-47-20 W4, where he established his own home. The Rosendahl log house was still standing there and was used as a granary for many years.

On October 11, 1941 he married Lavern M. Anderson, a teacher, who continued to teach for a total of twenty-three years, seventeen of which were at the Camrose Hutterite Colony, neighbors of the family.



Gilbert Nesvold family. At Back: Merdell. Seated: Gilbert, Lavern. Standing: Renée, Timothy, Pamela.

Their four children, Merdel, Pamela, Renée, and Timothy, attended Sifton School, Camrose Composite High School, Camrose Lutheran College, and the University of Alberta, Edmonton. The family also was active in church activities.

Merdell, born in 1946, is married to Daniel Stolee. They reside in Camrose with their two daughters, Kirsten and Karin. Merdell teaches High School English at Rosalind School. Pamela, a teacher with an Early Childhood Major, is married to Donald Baker and has a son, Shaun. They live in High Prairie where Pamela teaches part-time. Renée, a pharmacist at Rosehaven, is married to Jack Helm and they live in Camrose. Timothy married to Debbie Mah, has just completed his Bachelor of Education Degree, majoring in Physical Education. They are presently living in Edmonton.

Gilbert and Lavern retired in 1975 and are residing in Camrose.

Earl Nesvold Family

In the spring of 1945, Earl Nesvold purchased a quarter of land, SE 28-47-20 W4, from Mrs. Paul Berg. In the fall of 1945, he married Eleanor Burgess. Together, they built, in the spring of 1946, a new home on this land where they lived until 1980. Four children, Linda, Wendy, Jerry, and Dale, were born to this union.

Linda, born in 1948, is married to Guenther Selmikeit. They reside in Edmonton and have two daughters, Jacqueline and Julie. Wendy, born in 1950, is married to Rodney Nelson. They farm in the Kelsey area and have three children, two sons, Steven and Philip, and one daughter, Angela. Jerry, born in 1957, is married to Corrine Blake. They live on the home farm and have one daughter, Andrea. Dale, born in 1959, is married to Joni Brinker. They live in Camrose and operate a dairy farm north of Camrose. They have one daughter, Jennifer.



Earl and Eleanor Nesvold. Dale, Linda, Jerry, Wendy.

Earl and Eleanor built a new home in Camrose and have lived there since 1980. They are both working and Earl continued to grain farm.

Sergeant Millard Nesvold

Millard enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941, and went overseas in May, 1942. His tenth grade and commercial course were taken at Camrose Lutheran College. For a time he was with the Burns Creamery organization, having been at Stettler when his call to service was received.

Under the date of May 10, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Nesvold received a letter containing a report "that a British bomber crashed as the result of enemy action on November 18, 1943 in the Commune of Bussy-le Chateau. French civilians of the town buried the eight members of the crew on November 20, 1943, in a trench grave on the left hand side of the Communal Cemetery. The grave is marked by a grey, wooden cross bearing the inscription 'ICI 8 Aviateurs Etrangers'". A subsequent letter described Millard as "mid-upper gunner of an aircraft engaged in an important mission over enemy territory" and "a member of one of our most experienced crews — having completed three operational flights against the enemy".

A memorial service was held on June 10, 1944 in the Camrose Lutheran Church.

Donald Nichols Family

Donald Nichols was born at Donalda on March 13, 1927. He attended school at Ferry Point and Sawyerville before moving with his parents to the Rosalind area.

Theresa Blouin was born on August 17, 1931 at

Donalda. I attended Norbo School where Judith (Knudson) Thronson was my grades one and two teacher, before moving to Rosalind where I completed high school.

Don and I were married on August 30, 1949. We took up farming and eventually we bought the Emil Ramstad place in Armena. In September 1967 we moved there with five of our six children; Yvonne not being born until May 1968. We kept some pigs, cattle, horses, and, for a while, chickens and ducks.

Our four older children, Allan, Norman, Marilyn and Vernon had a band and played at many dances and gatherings in and around the area. The boys played hockey and ball with the local teams while Marilyn was the instructor of Majorettes for the County of Camrose. Our home was a gathering place for many of the young people. One night in January we had an extra eight people stay overnight due to a blizzard.



Nichols family, 25th Anniversary, August, 1974 at Armena. Marilyn, Allan, Theresa, Don, Vernon, Norman, Lorraine and Yvonne.

In November 1967 Don started working at Stelco in Camrose. Don worked for Ipsco in Edmonton from 1974 to 1975. The winter of 1975 was spent working on the pipeline. In the fall of 1976 Don worked for Allied Grains of Vermilion. In 1977 he started back at Stelco and at present is still employed there.

I had been employed at the Camrose Bootery since 1963 and in 1967, when we moved to Armena, was still working there part-time. With the help of the older children, we did the janitor work at the Armena School, from 1970 until the school closed in 1975. I also worked at the Armena General Store on Saturday mornings until we moved to Camrose after selling our place to Ken Boman in May 1976. After

working for Duraclean Carpet and Upholstery Care for one and one-half years, I started at the County Office. I have worked in the Education Department from April, 1979 until the present time.

Donald Allan, our eldest son, was born at Camrose on June 23, 1952. When we moved to the Armena district, he was in grade ten. He graduated in 1970 from the Hay Lakes School. Allan was the guitar player in the Nichols' band. Since he liked the farm and animals he worked for John Robertson on his dairy farm west of Camrose, and for Wilbur Thronson after school and on weekends. From 1971 to 1974 Allan attended Nait where he obtained his mechanics license. He apprenticed during this time at Glambeck Motors and Merle Taylor's garage. On September 2, 1972 he married Pat Brown of Camrose. They lived in a mobile home located just south of Wilbur Thronsons on land they rented from Wilbur. In 1974, Allan started in the construction business working with Gary Green and Glen Czeretzki. Big Al's Construction was formed in 1976. Their daughter, Brianne Ellice, was born on June 29, 1977. In 1978 Allan and Pat bought the acreage they were living on and in March 1980 they sold it and moved into Camrose. Clayton, their son, was born May 30, 1980. They now reside in the country two and one-half miles south-east of the Junction.



Pat and Allan Nichols. Brianne, 4 years, and Clayton, 15 months.

Norman Douglas, born in Camrose on January 8, 1954, was in grade eight when we moved to Armena. He attended school there and took his high school years at Hay Lakes School and Camrose Composite High School. He graduated from C.C.H.S. in 1972. Norman was the violin player in the Nichols' band.



Debbie and Norman Nichols. Jason, 2 years, and Sean, 1 month.

After graduation he worked for the Alberta Wheat Pool in Meeting Creek until 1973, at which time, he worked in Edmonton and Red Deer. In October 1974 he started on a survey crew, with the Department of Highways, working at Whitecourt. In January, 1976, Norman began working with Legal Surveyors, first in Edmonton and later in Wetaskiwin. He is now a party-chief with W. D. Usher & Associates in Camrose. Norman loves to hunt and he and some of his friends from Armena have given many a coyote a wild chase. On October 8, 1977, Norman married Debbie Congdon. They moved in October 1979 to the old Congdon farm, in the Duhamel district, where they still live. Debbie and Norman have two sons, Jason Michael, born August 5, 1979, and Sean Matthew, born July 30, 1981.

Marilyn Theresa (Nichols) Nordin, born January 16, 1955 in Camrose, was in grade seven when we arrived at Armena. Marilyn was the accordion player with the band. She was involved with the County Majorettes for ten years, seven of these as an Instructor, until lack of interest forced the program to conclude. During this time, they toured Alberta and British Columbia, taking part in many parades. On November 25, 1972, she married Terrence Nordin, son of Reynold and Adelia Nordin of Camrose North. They lived on the Reynold Nordin farm until they bought the Carl Reichelt farm, NW 20-48-20, in June, 1976. Marilyn, also a graduate of Hay Lakes High School, worked at the County of Camrose office for four and one-half years, first in the Recreation Department and later in the Education Department. Terry works at Builders Supplies in Camrose. During the summer of 1981, the Nordins built a new home and moved into it in November of the same



Marilyn and Terry Nordin, Julie and Kalvin.

year. Marilyn and Terry have two children, Calvin Lee, born August 5, 1978, and Julie Maureena, born April 9, 1980.

Vernon Dale, our youngest son, was born February 26, 1955, in Viking, Alberta. He was in grade six when we came to Armena and he attended school there, in Hay Lakes, and at the Camrose Composite High School. Vernon was the drummer in the Nichols' band. He enjoyed fishing and hunting very much. While attending school in Camrose, Vernon worked at the Grandview and Texaco service stations. From October, 1974 until May, 1976, he worked with a survey crew, for the Department of Highways, at Edson. After returning to Camrose, he went to work for Big Al's Construction, where he is still employed. On May 9, 1981, Vernon married Gwen Klassen. They make their home in Camrose.

Lorraine Rose, born in Camrose on April 25, 1966, was sixteen months old when we moved to Armena. She started school in Armena with Irene Moore as her grades one and two teacher. Mrs. Olive Thronson was Lorraine's grades three and four teacher both at Armena and later at Hay Lakes. After we moved to Camrose she attended Sparling School and now is attending Camrose Composite High School. Lorraine is still living at home.

Yvonne Louise, our youngest child, was born in Camrose on May 5, 1968. She started school in Armena, with Irene Moore as her teacher for grades one and two, and when it was closed in 1975, she attended Hay Lakes School until we moved to Camrose. At that time, May, 1976, she attended Sparling School. She now is in grade eight at the Charlie Killam School and she too lives at home.

E. Jim Nickerson and Family

E. J. Nickerson or Jim as he was better known to his friends, came to Armena, Alberta from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 1909. They came by train and oxcart. His brother Marshall came in 1923. James married Mary Traster from Camrose on December 23, 1914. They had six children, Ivy was the eldest then George, Alden, Irene, Leo, and Stewart. There was also a little girl Phyllis who died quite young. Leo is also deceased. He drowned July 14, 1961 in an accident at Lake Wabuman. Three other Cubs members died in the same accident, when a big storm came up.



E. J. Nickerson family, 1930. Ivy Nickerson, third from left in front row, Alden Nickerson, second from front on right, Grandpa Traster right front.

Ivy, the eldest girl, lives in Grande Forks, British Columbia. They have a dairy farm there. Her husband passed away several years ago. Ivy has three girls.

Irene is married to Elmer Petersen. They have six living children. They lost a baby boy.

Alden married Nora Wilcox from Grimshaw in June of 1943. Alden is a retired Postman. They have two girls.

George and Mabel (nee Beatty) married October 30, 1929. We live in Westlock Alberta. George looks after and manages the Arena. We have three girls.

Stewart married Evelyn Ashton July 29, 1961. Stewart is a Druggist and by choice, in the hardware business in Mannville. They have one girl and two boys.

James Nickerson was Councillor in Camrose about sixteen years. They left Camrose in 1929 and came to Dapp and settled on a ½ section of land in the Larkspur District about 10 miles from Dapp. They brought with them 45 head of cattle and 2 horses. Some were driven up and others were shipped. They lived and worked hard during those homestead years. Jim passed away in 1960. His wife Mary died the following year in 1961.

Marshall Nickerson Family

Marshall Brenton Nickerson and Charlotte May Nickerson were both born in Nova Scotia, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia to be correct.

Marshall Nickerson came to Armena, Alberta to farm with his Brother James (Jim). Nickerson, in August of 1919. On November 29, 1919 his wife and family of six children, five girls and one boy, arrived in Camrose by C.N.R. and were met by Marshall and Uncle Jim.

We lived in a three room log house on the Oscar Thompson farm about a mile west of Armena. Uncle Jim and Aunt Mary and their three children had one room, and our family had two rooms. We lived on this farm and farmed with Jim Nickerson until the spring of 1921. During this time, Dorothy, Annie Mary, and Gladys attended the Busk School. On this farm another sister was born, Frances on July 16, 1920.

In the spring of 1921 we moved to the Lundemo district. Muriel (Millie) started school at the Thronson School in the fall of 1922. Two more daughters were born on Mr. Bockey's farm in the Lundemo district, Faye on March 16, 1922 and Margaret on December 14, 1924.

In the spring of 1925 we moved five miles south of Armena to the old Riggs place, from where we attended the Baldenstein School. Our baby brother Amos (Bud) was born on this farm on June 8, 1926; this made a family of ten children. Brother Kenneth started school in the Baldenstein School.

Our mother and dad worked very hard to make a living for ten children and themselves. Mother and we children would help stook the grain and milk cows.

In the spring of 1927 we moved to another farm west of Armena called the Tom Rohalt's farm, and from here we again attended Busk School. Ken, Millie and Frances went to school as the older girls were out working.

The last farm my folks lived on before moving to Dapp (Westlock area) was a farm east of Kaser's belonging to Uncle Jim Nickerson. From here we attended the East Bittern Lake School.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Nickerson moved to a homestead at Dapp, Alberta in 1932 with the younger three girls and two boys.

They farmed here and improved their homestead until Mother passed away in 1952 at the age of 67 years. Two years later Dad sold the homestead and built a small home for himself on our youngest sister's (Margaret Boutin) place. Dad passed away in 1974 at the age of 90 years.

James and Mary Nickerson moved to the Dapp district to homestead in 1931, they had seven chil-

dren. James was born in Nova Scotia also. He married Mary Traster, a sister to George Traster of East Bittern Lake. They farmed on the Oscar Thompson farm for about eleven years.

Uncle Jim passed away in February of 1960 at the age of 74 and Aunt Mary passed away in March of 1961 at the age of 68.

Alna Lyseng and Leif Nisi

written by Alna Nisi

Alna Josephine, eldest daughter of Carl and Ragna, was baptised and confirmed in Scandia Lutheran Church. She received her schooling at the Thor-denskjold School. She helped her mother with the younger children and learned to cook and sew and all the other things family life entails, as well as taking part in Choir, youth work and teaching Sunday School. She was also involved with the girls clubs — Sunshine Club and later the L.D.R. (Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation)

Leif Nisi, born in Tinnoset, Telemark, Norway, on September 10, 1905, immigrated to the Camrose area in February 1928. The winter of 1928-29 he attended C.L.C. to learn the English language. Together with his brother Torstein, who had arrived from Norway in the fall of 1927, he bought a farm N.W. of Camrose, near the Baldenstein School in the spring of 1929. They farmed there until the spring of 1932 when they sold that farm. Torstein then decided to start a blacksmith shop in New Norway and Leif rented the John Broen farm, N.W. of Armena. Then in 1934 he rented the Andrew Solheim farm west of



Adele, Lyle, Orlando Nisi — spring of 1943.

Armena and farmed there until ill health forced him to retire from farming.

Also in 1934 Leif married Alna Lyseng. They raised three children there; Orlando, Adele and Lyle. Their histories follow.



Nisi family. Adele, Lyle, Orlando, Leif, Alna.

Orlando Conrad born May 6, 1935, attended Armena School, then started working for Petcal Oil Co. near Armena but is now with Esso Resources, working in the Engineering Department at Calgary. On January 12, 1957 he married Margaret Schroeder of Camrose and they had four children. Laurel Janet born and died in 1957. Roderick Michael was born on March 27, 1959, and married Kathrine (Brandt) Rath. He is attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Rory Sheldon born on July 1960, died in October the same year. Jeffrey Darren born April 25, 1962 is attending Mount Royal College in Calgary.

Adele Ruth born August 30, 1937, married Ross Arthur on June 7, 1958. Ross works for an Edmonton Radio Station in Sales and also Sports News. Adele works for the Edmonton School Board in the office. Their four children are:

Shelley Lynn born February 14, 1960, married Edward Olfert on April 21, 1979. Ed is a meat cutter at Woodward Store, Edmonton. Scott Gregory was born September 25, 1962 and works in Penticton,

B.C. Kym Pamela born February 21, 1964 and is a grade XII student in Edmonton. Janet Michelle was born February 25, 1972 and is still in school.

Alna and Leif's third child, Lyle Gary was born on July 19, 1941. He married Dianne Merritt. Lyle is with the Bank of Nova Scotia as Loan Administrator, Real Estate Credit, at the Regional Office in Calgary. Dianne works as Operations Control for the Bank of Montreal, in Calgary.

After leaving the farm Alna and Leif lived in Armena for many years. Leif regained a measure of health and was able to do lighter work. For a time he drove a school bus and was then janitor at the Armena School for some years, until retirement. He passed away on December 1, 1978. Alna worked at Rosehaven in Camrose until retirement. She now lives in Camrose.

The Axel Nordstrom Family by Grace Veale

Axel Nordstrom was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in August of 1858. He learned the carpenter trade and later became a journalist. After the death of his father, brother John, and he moved to Wilton, North Dakota to homestead. Axel married Evelina Hagstrom, who had left Sweden earlier. She was a nurse and her father a doctor in Sweden. They raised nine children. Mrs. Minnie Jensen, eighty-nine, of

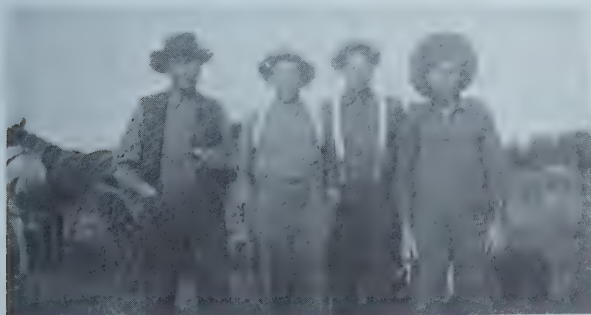


1914. Mrs. Axel Nordstrom age 58 years.



Nordstrom family, 1917. Back Row: Mabel (Olson), Viola (Haugen), Edward, Minnie (Jenson), Edith (Olson), Lenard. Front Row: Arthur, Axel (father), Jennie (Johnson). Taken after death of Mrs. Nordstrom.

Bothel, Washington is the only living daughter. Axel rode with the posse, but said they never caught anyone. Winters in North Dakota were tough and summers with cyclones, so they had an underground shelter for protection.



1909. Left to Right: Axel Nordstrom, Ferlix Hagstrom (cousin), Lenard Nordstrom, Edward Nordstrom.

Axel, along with Norman Nelson, came by horse and wagon, to search for land and purchased land in the Baldenstein district. The family moved to the district in May of 1908, bringing with them the first power machinery, cattle, horses, and household goods by rail. His sons rode with the livestock to care for them. For a short time they lived on the Spiedahl farm, south of Camrose, while living accommodations were built and water was witched. Soon a large barn and house were built. Land was broken up for next year's crop. Viola attended Baldenstein School.

Axel served on the school board and county council. His wife was always willing to help others and was midwife for two of the John Olson children, and the Skog family and others. She passed away March 17, 1917, and was buried in the Camrose North Cemetery. At present seventy remain in this cemetery. Axel passed away in August of 1940. His son Edward and family moved back to the farm in



Axel Nordstrom farm house.



1927. Left to Right: Alice, Walter, Edward, Agnes, Grace, baby Ralph.

1937. They had eight children, the last two were born in Camrose. When the older boys left home and left him without help he sold the farm to Bob Schroeder and took over the business of Bill's Cafe.

They lived a short time in Camrose and moved to Edmonton. Edward passed away on October 11, 1961. Agnes, his wife, still lives in Edmonton, has good health, and capably takes care of herself and home and is now eighty years young.

The eight Edward Nordstrom children are scattered — Irene in Bay Town, Texas; Walter in Rancho, Santa Fe, California; Harold and Norman in Seattle; Alice at Westbank, B.C.; Ralph in Edmonton; Allan at Millet, and Grace in Camrose.

Goodman and Nellie Norvick by Beatrice Sederberg

My mother, Nellie, (1889-1975) was the third child of Eric and Betsy Lyseng. She took her elementary education in Clinton, Minnesota and was confirmed there. At the age of fourteen she became a



Gudmund and Nellie Norvik.

Canadian citizen along with her parents. She accepted Christ as her Saviour when she was a teenager and continued steadfast to the end. She furthered her education at the Camrose Lutheran College pursuing a business course and was in the first graduating class of 1913. She worked as a secretary and telephone operator. She sang in quartets and ladies ensembles. She had a good voice and loved to sing.

She married Gudmund (Goodman) Norvick (1890-1925). My father, who was born in Norway, emigrated to the United States and settled in Nebraska with his cousins, the Ostrems. He left the States when they did and at first settled on the farm with them near Camrose. My parents farmed the SW ¼ 7-48-20 for several years. My brother Emery went to the Lyseng School and had Margaret Heiner as his teacher the first three years. Sometime after my father's death we moved to Camrose where my mother worked at first and then had a boarding house. We children, Emery, Gladys and I grew up during the depression years and experienced hard times. During the school year our church was always quite full because of the Bible and College students. The

Young Peoples Society had many interesting programs and socials. The Camrose Week, a seven-day Bible study and evangelistic crusade, was held the first week in July. We children attended the afternoon and evening services which were in English. This was always a highlight of the year because Great Aunt Annie (Mrs. Knut Lyseng) usually spent the week with us. She and my Grandmother, Betsy, were sisters.

Aunt Mathilda (Tillie) Lyseng, (1885-1960) Eric and Betsy's first child, remained a spinster. She spent her time keeping house for people as a means of livelihood. As long as Grandpa lived she made her home at the old home place. After my father died she lived with us. There are many happy memories of hikes that my sister Gladys and I took with her as we grew up. We walked the tracks, crossing trestles, watching out for trains, picking chokecherries, and eating a lunch of egg sandwiches and possibly a cookie for dessert.

My brother, Emery John, (1918-1942) apprenticed as a pharmacist, but due to the war didn't further his studies at the university. He became a Flight Sergeant in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was killed in a practice flight over England on June 26, 1942.



Gladys, Emery, Beatrice and Mrs. Norvik.

In 1942, after selling her farm and house in Camrose, my mother moved to Vancouver, B.C. along with my Grandmother, Betsy, my Aunt Tillie, my sister Gladys and me.

After Gladys and I finished high school we worked at the Boeing Aircraft for almost three years during the war. After the war Gladys got a job in a store in Vancouver, while I spent two years at the Lutheran Bible Institute in the States. After that I went to the Provincial Normal School in Vancouver

and became a teacher in 1948. I have taught for twenty-five years.

I married Bror Alfred Sederberg (1910-1971) and had three children.

My sister, Gladys Norma, married George Tryon. They had seven children.

It has been a pleasure writing the history of my family. Since Engebret Knudson Lyseng, I am the fifth generation; the geneology continues two more generations, thus making it a total of seven.

The Kenneth J. Nyback Family **by Ken and Rita Nyback**

Ken Nyback, son of Bill and Ella Nyback, was born on his grandparents' farm in the Hampton District. He grew up in the nearby community of Avonroy.

In 1948 he married Rita Wagner, daughter of Fred and Myrtle Wagner. Rita grew up in the Ohaton area.

In pursuit of our ultimate dream, many chapters of our early adventures brought us to the Baldenstein School District north of Camrose in 1962. After an intensive search we believe that God led us to the Algar Lyseng farm. Ken being a farm boy loved to work the soil.

After five years of dairying and grain farming, poor health proved this impossible. The events that followed led to the birth of Canadian Nurs-ette. The nurs-ette story follows:

"In 1965, my wife, Rita, and I had a dream of raising new-born calves in a big way. We performed a \$9,000.00 renovation to our existing dairy barn. It was set up to accommodate one hundred and thirty calves at one time. The operation was put into effect only to find that there were no milk replacers on the market to do a proper feeding job. Our first one hundred head were fed on spray dried buttermilk. This feeding program was most unsatisfactory. Something better just had to be available, or we would make our own formulas.

After much research, we proceeded to design our own formulas with the use of spray dried pork fat on a whey base, imported; as it was not available in Canada. We began to formulate milk replacers. Through much trial and error we discover how to manufacture acceptable products, thus raising over five hundred head per year successfully. Much interest was displayed, and calf raisers from all parts of Western Canada wanted to use our product. As well, I might add, we use an automatic feeding device called the Nurs-ette Calf Feeder.

It was apparent that there was a large market for milk replacer and automatic feeders. This prompted us to set up a mixing plant and to enter the retail field. The company called "Canadian Nurs-ette Distribu-



Kenneth Nyback farm.

tors Ltd.” was formed in August of 1967. Each year our facilities were outgrown. New additions had to be built for the next six years. Our plant now consists of 12,000 square feet of warehouse space plus a 1,800 square foot modern office with the latest equipment and vehicles. The plant is located five and one-half miles northwest of Camrose. Canadian Nurs-ette employs twelve persons on a full time basis, an input in excess of \$185,000.00 in salaries to Camrose and district. Gross sales are in excess of two million dollars, using most products produced by the dairy farmer. To date we have sold more than 4,000 automatic calf feeders in Canada. Our sales area covers Alberta, the most lucrative, and also British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and part of Ontario. In 1978 we introduced a pet food to complete our sales program. We manufacture nine different formulas for calves, as well as special formulas for lambs and pigs, along with numerous brand lines for other companies.”

Although we are relatively newcomers to the district we have a keen sense and appreciation for the pioneers that developed our area and farm. Many times we discuss and wonder what it would be like to send our children to Baldenstein School down the road by the railroad track.



Kenneth and Rita Nyback family.

In 1962 we arrived at the Algar Lyseng farm. We were accompanied by our four lively, inquisitive children, Ken Jr. eleven years, Judy ten years, Wayne nine years and Melody eight years. Realizing that we had love, space and time as a family, we unanimously decided that by adoption our family should increase. We asked God to give us the children he wanted us to have, and spring 1963, Julie Ann, a bundle of beauty and joy arrived. We were overjoyed. By fall of 1963,

Jackie Rae, another beautiful, happy, baby girl was welcomed into our home.

Bursting at the seams, it was necessary to build an addition onto our house.

D'Arcy our third chosen child happily arrived in 1966. Needing a younger brother, Jeffrey our family athlete, arrived in 1967. Christopher, bright and active, our ninth and making our family complete, arrived in 1969.

Kenneth Jr. married Laura Watt from Waterloo, Ontario. Ken, a steam engineer is presently junior executive with Canadian Nurs-ette. They reside in Camrose.

Judy married Randy Olsen of Ferintosh. They have two children, Robbie and Kari. Judy graduated from the University of Alberta and is teaching school at Rosebrier. They reside on their farm near Ferintosh.

Wayne married Donna Millar from Sherwood Park. They have two children, Jason and Steven. Wayne is a constable with the Camrose City Police Department. They reside at the Nurs-ette farm.

Melody married Constable Dan Small from Edmonton. They have two children, Elizabeth and Danny Jr. They reside in Devon.

The five younger children are living at home. Jackie and Julie are taking their first year university at the Camrose Lutheran College. D'Arcy attends the Camrose Composite High School.

During the years of building a business and rais-

ing a family, Ken and Rita found time for other activities. Ken was the founder of the Camrose and District Kidney Foundation that eventually lead to the founding of the Alberta Chapter. Ken was instrumental in purchasing the first home kidney unit in Alberta, installed in Camrose. He received the Citizen of the Year Award in 1975. He also served on the Agricultural Appeal Board Committee of Alberta for six years.

Rita is active in the Federal and Provincial Progressive Conservative Associations and plays an active roll in many volunteer projects. She is presently serving on the Provincial Social Care Facilities Review Committee and the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council.

Elling and Amalia Olson

Alice Findlater

Elling born in Norway in 1865 and Amalia Tanberg born in Minnesota in 1877 came from Minnesota in 1902 and settled on the S.W. ¼-31-47-20-W4. There was a lot of work to be done. A house and barn to be built and the prairie land to be brushed and breaking to be done to get the fields ready to sow the grain.

There was a need for schools and churches. The Lyseng school was built in 1905. Albert Lyseng, Elling Olson and O. T. Wilson were on the first school board. We were about three miles from the school so we walked in summer and drove in winter



Elling and John Olson families, 1919. Elling Olson farm buildings in background.



Front: Elling and Amalia Olson, Nora. Back: Walter, Alice, Myrtle, Ervin. Photograph taken in 1918.

when the horses were not needed in the fields. At first, we had trails across the country but when the settlers bought more land they put up fences and built roads.

The first money making projects that I can remember were oyster suppers and box socials.

We belonged to Scandia Church and all five of us were confirmed there.

It was a busy community with Ladies Aid, Dorcas Society and Sunshine Club, all doing good work.

There were sports too, horse shoe, croquet, baseball and in the winter, we skated on the Erickson slough. Later we played basket ball at Armena.

The winters were cold and Dad would haul coal from Dinant in the fall but sometimes ran short and had to go back for more on a cold winter's day.

In summer, there were prairie fires to fight and chimney fires could start any time.

Threshing was a busy time for men and women. There were a lot of men to cook for when the big threshing rigs moved in.

The earlier years, when we took eggs to the store, we packed them in a pail of oats so they would not break. When the dry years came, it was not worth the trouble to take eggs to the store as we only got about ten cents a dozen for them. When we gathered eggs and found soft shells, we knew it was time to get out the broken china we had saved and find a hammer and a flat stone and pulverize the china and the chickens liked it. We were not allowed to use glass as that was bad for the chickens.

We used to tie a rope on the cans of milk and cream and drop them down the well to keep them

cool. It was a bit risky, so later we dug a pit in the grove and in winter the men cut ice to put in it and covered it with boards. That was much safer. The women used a lot of the milk to make cheese and at picnic time they made ice cream and it was delicious.

The neighbors helped each other when it was time to butcher. The women made head cheese and rendered lard to make soap. A lot of meat was cured at home and some was cut up and put in sealers and cooked in the boiler for a long time and it was tender and tasty.

There were lots of flies, mosquitos and hornets around and there were no sprays. We bought Wilson's Fly Pads, a brown disc that was put on a deep plate and we added water and the flies would drink this and die. The problem was, to keep the children from getting into it. We bought sheets of tanglefoot that we pulled apart and put on the cupboards but they were a nuisance as we would get caught so the best of all were the coils that we pulled out and hung in the ceiling as they were out of the way.

Most farmers built barns with a high loft for storing hay. We looked out one morning after Hal-



Myrtle and Alice Olson.

loween and saw the single buggy on top of the barn with two wheels on each side of the rim of the roof. I don't know how they got it up there in the dark as we found it hard enough to get it down in the daylight.

When we had to go out on a cold winters night we would get the foot heater out and light the coals and take the cowhide robe and we kept fairly warm in the cutter. Before we got the heater we heated a stone in the oven and wrapped it up and that kept our feet warm. On stormy nights my mother hung a lantern in the upstairs window so that anyone lost, might see it and find shelter.

One highlight was the day my Dad bought our first car, a Dodge Touring with side curtains to put up if it was cold or when it rained. That was great until the dry years came and we had to jack it up on blocks and go back to driving horses. Another big day was the day Dad came home from Armena with four barrels of apples. I think the United Farmers of Alberta must have ordered a carload of apples. I believe they were Northern Spy, Bellflower, Baldwin and Russets.

When Myrtle finished public school, she went to Camrose Lutheran College. We had an interest in the College because the first principal was John P. Tanberg, my mother's brother. The college opened in 1912 but the first classes were held in 1911 in two churches and the students were housed in the Heather Brae Hotel while the College was under construction. Myrtle married Herman Hanson in 1920 and they farmed in the area for awhile and then moved to Alliance, where he sold Rawliegh Products. Myrtle passed away in 1936. Later Herman married again and is living in Edmonton.



Myrtle Olson, Edith Butler, and Alice Olson.

Alice went to Camrose High School in 1920. Then got work in Camrose and married James Findlater in 1926. James passed away in 1966 but Alice still lives in Camrose.

Ervin went to College and then worked in a lumber yard in Camrose for awhile; later working in Donalds and Red Willow. He married Elaine Struthers and moved to Barrhead and then to British Columbia. He passed away in Kelowna in 1966. Elaine married again and still lives in Kelowna.

Walter married Violet Skog and they rented the farm for awhile. They moved to Barrhead and later to Edmonton where he worked for a construction firm. When he retired, they moved to Penticton. He passed away in 1980. Violet is still in Penticton.

Nora worked in Camrose for a short time then married Geo. Skog. They lived on several farms before moving to Edmonton. After a few years they moved to Penticton.

Mother and Dad sold the farm about 1939 and moved to Camrose. Dad passed away in St. Marys in 1945. Mother passed away in Bethany in 1957.

Alice and Nora are the only ones left of the Elling Olson family.

I think what I remember most of all, about the earlier years is the way neighbors helped one another, especially when anyone in the family was ill.

The John E. Olson History

by Elmer Olson

Our ancestry began in Valdres, Norway. Our grandparents Engebret Olson Braaten and his wife Anna and four children immigrated to Chippewa County, Minnesota in 1871. Four more children were born in the United States. Their twin sons John and Ole were born in a covered wagon on March 27, 1872.

As young men John and Ole received very little education, and started farming in the Chippewa County area. John met his future wife, Valborg Ellingson while visiting his brother-in-law Albert Lyseng in Clinton, Minnesota. Valborg was born January 23, 1878 in Nordfjord, Norway. When she was five years old she immigrated with her parents to Clinton, Minnesota, U.S.A.

John, together with other settlers came to Alberta in 1901. After filing for a homestead on the SW ¼ Section 28-47-20-W4, he went back to Minnesota. In 1902 he returned to Alberta with his settler's effects consisting of horses, a wagon, and some machinery. He immediately built a shelter for his horses on his preemption NW¼ Section 21-47-20-W4. His own sleeping quarters were a loft above the horses. One night Dad had a prophetic dream about a railroad

being built through this location. As a result of this dream, he moved to his homestead quarter. There he built a frame house and also bored a water well. Later a railroad was actually constructed on that exact place of his dream.

Bachelor meals were extremely simple, consisting mostly of oatmeal porridge, pancakes, and the meat of prairie chickens, partridges and wild ducks. Wild birds were found in great abundance. He often enjoyed home baked bread when he'd ride over to visit his brother-in-law, Albert Lyseng. The days ahead were busy one. Breaking the land was a struggle because of inadequate horse power, as a result the prairie land was broken first.

In the meantime his fiancée Valborg Ellingson worked in a hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. The knowledge she gained there was put to good use on many occasions in the frontier days. In the summer of 1904 she arrived by train to Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Enroute, she made the acquaintance of Selma Nelson. They became lifelong friends.

John Olson and Valborg Ellingson were married on July 6, 1904 by Reverend C. H. Hanson. For a honeymoon they drove with horses and wagon to

Wetaskiwin to take their wedding picture and to buy supplies for their new home. On arriving there one of the horses took sick and John spent the night in the livery stable caring for the horse while Valborg was alone in the Driard Hotel.

Selma Nelson married William Moore some time later.

Some of Dad's first horses died of swamp fever. He replaced them with lighter horses to use for driving and later bought two young Percheron mares at the John Hough sale west of Camrose. These were the basis of our draft horses used for field work.

When I was a young boy transients would often stop at our home asking for a bite to eat. My parents never refused giving help. I clearly remember one man by the name of John Booth that came to ask for some food. He was working with the construction crew building the road-bed for the C.N.R. railroad nearby. He had been threatened by his fellow workers and feared for his life. He was illiterate and very trusting. After eating a hearty breakfast my Dad asked him to stay for a few days to help with some work. My Dad had planned to go to town that day so before leaving gave John instructions to build a little pig pen. Alex and I were curious observers watching him nail the rails to the posts. But the work didn't go very well when he tried to make the spikes co-operate as he wielded the hammer. My mother happened to come along and heard him just as he exploded into some "juicy" obscenities. She gave him the ultimatum, "No more swear words around these children or get back on the road." He worked at our place for three years and never again did he resort to any off-color words. When he came, his only possession (besides his clothes) was a Bible his mother had given him when he left home. In it was written her address of Halifax, Nova Scotia. My parents corresponded with her from time to time as she was concerned about the welfare of her son. He was very dependable and kind-hearted. He often took charge of us children when our parents went to town. I remember very well the day he left, my Dad bought his train ticket, gave him money in bills and coins and instructions to be very careful with it. Dad talked to the Conductor and was assured John would be looked after until he reached his destination. As I heard them signal "All aboard" a wave of sadness swept over me as I wondered if I would ever see him again. He had almost become one of the family as we all loved him. John's mother and my parents corresponded several times but after 1917 we never heard from them again. I often wondered if they were victims of the terrible devastation that Halifax suffered by the explosion of an ammunition ship in the harbor.

Although unpleasant to think about I will men-



John and Valborg Olson, July, 1904.



John Olson family — 1938. Back Row, Left to Right: Alex, Luther, Bernice, Marguerite, Elmer, Raymond. Front Row: John, Dórothy, Judith, Grace, Valborg.

tion our “war on snakes” as they were very numerous in the early years. My Dad had a straw shed for the young cattle and it was soon taken over by snakes. During warm summer days we’d see them entwined on the rails that made up the walls of the shed. Alex and I would spear as many as we could with a five-tined fork. Each day we’d kill a few more, many of them measuring four feet long. By summer’s end we had killed twenty-five snakes. Even a cluck hen once had to fight off a snake when it attacked her little chicks.

From the earliest days John Olson took an active part in organizing activities in the community. He was “Road Boss” for many of our district roads. Road building meant heavy work using only horses and scrapers. Where a slough had to be crossed a process called “corduroying” was done during the winter preceding the road work planned for the following summer. “Corduoy” means the placing of several layers of poplar timber, laid across, before the grading of the road.



John Olson family home, 1933.

For twenty-five years he served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Baldenstein school. His wages per year were fifteen dollars. His work included collecting taxes and together with the school board they drew up a yearly budget. School taxes for the year of 1911 was seven cents per acre. "Good old days!"

As the family grew so did the need for a larger house. Olaf Pederson helped my Dad build a large addition to the small existing frame home. I remember them working into the night with only the light of a kerosene lamp. My mother would be busy sewing clothes with the Singer Sewing Machine she brought with her from Minnesota. I remember too, hearing the "whirr" of the machine after I was in bed. This old sewing machine is still in the family.

In times of a death in a family, neighbors were very helpful. Often an undertaker wasn't available and the family members would prepare for the burial. I recall the time my Dad and Olaf Pederson made a coffin for an elderly lady, Mrs. Lunde, who had died. The lumber used was cedar boards taken from an upstairs partition of our house. My mother lined the coffin with white cloth. On another occasion a small coffin was built for our neighbor's, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Lyseng, whose baby boy had passed away. My Dad walked to their home carrying the coffin on his back.

A new barn was built in 1916 by H. Skogness as carpenter. It was equipped with a loft and hay slings, easing the work of feeding the livestock. Pumping water by hand was a never-ending job until Dad modernized the pumping by using a horse on a power sweep. This method was replaced by a gas engine in 1921.

All members of the family shared with the farm work, such as chores, haying, herding cattle and harvesting.

In 1928, we acquired a half section of bush land from J. K. Burgess and John Monson and spent the next couple of years clearing and breaking. An investment of a threshing machine was made in 1929 and we did custom threshing for the next thirty years. The year of 1929 was also the beginning of the "Great Depression Years", also called the "Dirty Thirties." Severe drought and dust storms caused poor crop yields. Conditions were further aggravated by a continual drop in prices. Three carloads of wheat were sold for nineteen cents a bushel and oats were even lower selling at the unbelievable pittance price of seven cents per bushel in the fall of 1932.

In the early days many farm women raised chickens and turkeys to earn extra money. Our mother specialized in raising turkeys. Turkey hens were very elusive birds and sometimes wandered off even a quarter of a mile to lay their eggs. To find their well-



John Olson family visiting Nels Ericksons.

camouflaged nests was not an easy task. Once when a sudden electric storm came up our mother as usual hurried out to check the safety of the young turkeys. She was struck by lightning which left her dazed for awhile but luckily she suffered no serious after-effects.

Our home was located only one-half mile from the Baldenstein school and many of the teachers roomed and boarded at our place. We have many fond memories of the lasting friendships that resulted.

During the late 1920's and the early 1930's Mrs. John Olson and Mrs. T. G. Ostrem organized and taught Sunday School. It was held in the various homes of our community.

Children usually like to remember the delicious food at home and thought that no one could prepare it as well as Mother. It gave us children a sense of pride when our mother Mrs. John Olson was invited to be in charge of cooking several wedding receptions in our neighborhood.

After many years of membership in the Scandia congregation, Mr. and Mrs. John Olson and family transferred to the Camrose Moland Lutheran Church. They retired from the farm and moved to Camrose in 1937, where John Olson served as church custodian for several years and his wife was a faithful member of the Ladies' Aid.

In July 1944 Mr. and Mrs. John Olson celebrated their Fortieth Wedding Anniversary. They raised a family of nine children: Elmer, Alexander, Judith, Marguerite, Bernice, Raymond, Luther, Dorothy and Grace.

Mrs. John Olson passed away on December 24, 1944 at the age of sixty-six years. John Olson went to reside at the Bethany Home in Camrose where he lived until his passing on October 27, 1951 at the age of seventy-nine years.

In spite of the hardships our parents endured over the many years they never faltered in their Christian Faith. They left us children with a legacy of courage

and hope for the future, for which we are all deeply grateful.

The Elmer Olson Family Story

by Cecelia Olson

Elmer, the eldest of Mr. and Mrs. John Olson, was born May 19, 1905. This area was then known as Northwest Territories.

I was born in Lancaster, Minnesota, U.S.A. on September 13, 1911. My parents moved to Camrose, Alberta in November 1928 and I joined them after finishing High School in May 1929.

Elmer and I were married in October 1930 and moved to our farm located on S½ Section 16-47-20-W4 where we still reside.



Elmer and Cecelia Olson wedding, October, 1930.

Our first home was a small twelve by eighteen building. Earlier it had been used at Elmer's home as a chicken coop, pump house and lastly as a granary. It was moved to our farm and remodeled with new lumber inside and out. To us it seemed really nice and cosy. I sewed new ruffled curtains from scrim, a material much like voile, which cost only ten or twelve cents a yard. Every winter the house was banked with hay or straw around the outside to keep out the cold. Yet many times when the temperatures were low our potatoes, vegetables and even canned fruit would freeze in our small cellar.

Elmer, with the help of Alex Olson and Thorvald Erickson, dug a water well by hand. It was sixty-four

feet deep with a wooden curbing, but it only supplied a few gallons of water a day so as a result Elmer hauled water from our neighbor's wells for the next three years. What a great satisfaction it was when we finally had a well drilled with lovely soft water!

Our first barn was a straw shed built by Elmer with the help of Alex and Glen, our brother-in-law. This structure was built of double sets of poplar rails laid horizontally with straw packed solidly in the walls. The roof was also made of poplar rails laid closely together and straw piled two or three feet thick on top. It was a warm barn in winter when the inside was coated with frost. However, as soon as thawing began or when a rain came, it rained a longer time inside the barn than outside. It had a habit of dripping down the back of my neck while I milked cows! Even though we weren't exactly in love with this shed, neither did we wish it any harm. It served its purpose for a couple of years until it was suddenly destroyed by fire.



Elmer Olson breaking land, July, 1928.

In 1932, after a summer of drought, the harvesting was done by the end of August and threshing was begun in the early September. The particular evening of September 12, 1932 the threshing on our farm was finished except for the last load being unloaded. The grain was threshed into a makeshift bin nearby and the straw blown over the top and back of this straw shed. Oh yes, it was going to be really handy for feeding and bedding the livestock that coming winter! Suddenly we saw sparks glistening in the blowing straw and in only seconds the straw pile and shed was all ablaze. We saved the big Holstein bull tied inside and also the calves and chickens. Just at that moment, Dad John Olson drove into the yard with a tank of water. Water-soaked gunny sacks were used to moisten the grain bin and that was also saved, although badly scorched.

Later we heard of several straw piles that had



Elmer and Alex Olson threshing crew, 1934.

caught fire the same way during threshing. The only explanation was a guess that flint stones picked up with the bundles ignited the fires.

The threshing continued as usual the next day but I remember how empty it was with only our small house in the yard. Many mornings the ground was white with frost as I sat outside to milk our cow "Crocus".

Our little one and one-half year old girl, Donna, and I were alone all week long while Elmer was busy with the rest of the threshing run. All went well, which was lucky as there was no telephone, no car or even a horse to drive if we had needed help. After threshing was over a small frame barn was built with the help of Edwin Hong, a neighbor.

Everyone enjoyed threshing time even though it was hard work and long hours. There were nine men with hearty appetites in our crew and they always looked forward to eating delicious home-cooked meals. I recall one time that I had baked sixty-five loaves of bread in five days. It kept the cooks pretty busy to prepare breakfast, dinner, supper and forenoon and afternoon lunches. We also found the time to carry wood and water, take care of the family, and sometimes manage to do chores besides. That was the common lot of farm women in early years



Elmer and Cecelia Olson family home.

On Saturday evenings the farmers occasionally went to Camrose to do their shopping and meet with friends to chat. We had three miles to town and I felt sorry for our faithful team of horses "Girlie and Lady" who had worked in the field all day and then had to make the trip to town that evening too. The grocery stores had no early closing time and often would still be open until midnight. The Salvation Army Band and singers always presented an enjoyable program on Saturdays.

The prices of groceries were ridiculously low compared with our present high costs. Best quality coffee was twenty-nine cents a pound, five pounds of hamburger for twenty-five cents, two pounds of sugar for twenty-five cents, a square basket of ripe tomatoes was ten cents, and a good corn broom only twenty-nine cents. These prices seemed high enough to us when a five gallon can of cream brought only one dollar and eighty-five cents. Often we traded butter for groceries, butter at only eight cents a pound! The grocer gave us a free bag of candy for a treat with each order of groceries. The children loved that very much!

Flour, sugar and salt came in good quality cloth bags. By soaking, scrubbing and boiling out the lettering the bags were made up into many useful articles. The flour bags ended up as pillow slips, sheets, and dish towels. I even made a set of lovely white ruffled curtains for my kitchen one time. The small sugar sacks were the right size for the milk strainer and the smallest salt bags were suitable for handkerchiefs. I liked it even better when the flour bags came out in flowered print or in plaid as then it could be used for aprons, dresses and luncheon cloths.

I loved gardening and growing flowers during the summers. My great weakness though was picking berries, and I searched every patch on our farm. There was an especially nice patch of wild raspberries in our pasture. One beautiful afternoon I was busily engrossed in picking them when a coyote howled nearby. It sent a chill down my spine and did I ever run home in a hurry!

There were severe drought conditions in the early 1930's, most of the sloughs were dry. Fortunately we had fairly good crops due to the land being new. However, we had many destructive dust storms. We always looked hopefully for rain whenever dark clouds gathered. We began to sense when a dust storm was coming, the dark clouds would roll and the atmosphere was ominously quiet until the wind came up loaded with dust. I'd hurry to get the clean laundry off the line. One dust storm was very bad, and I recall that my kitchen became so dark that the lamp had to be lit in mid-afternoon.

Nowadays we all take insecticides for granted but

years ago when they were unavailable we had a real battle with mosquitoes and flies. There was a type of woven cotton mesh that we used instead of wire screen windows. It was green in color and we tacked it on. Flies couldn't get through but small mosquitoes did. There were three or more kinds of fly poisons, sticky fly paper in sheets or coils, and Wilson's fly pads which were like gray blotting paper. This type was soaked in water and sprinkled with sugar, the directions were to keep it out of reach of children. One other fly poison used often was pyrethrum powder. It was messy to use and only temporarily stunned the flies. The powder was contained in a special dusting can, and was aimed towards the ceiling. While the flies buzzed and fell to the floor we'd go outdoors until the dust settled. Then it was to hurry and sweep up and burn the flies before they had a chance to revive.

Although we recall the dark and gloomy times we also have many pleasant memories of the happier occasions. Every one of our family often reminisces about the many "fun" gatherings with our good neighbors, Herb Kubbernuses. Mrs. Kubbernus made delicious waffles as a treat for all of us.

Entertainment of any kind was very scarce so we usually made our own. One evening Elmer was playing his violin and I the organ and singing lustily when there came a loud knock at the door. Standing there was Thorvold and Nettie Erickson laughing heartily for eavesdropping on our amateur musical number!

Before this little episode Edwin Hong had invited a few of us to join him to form an orchestra. Mr. Hong was the leader and clarinet player. Other members were: Marguerite Olson pianist, Elmer Olson violinist, Alex Olson played guitar, Marget Olson on the saxophone and myself a banjo. We gathered quite often to play concert music for our own pleasure. It came as a surprise to us when we were asked to play at a U.F.A. Rally held at Kingman, Alberta. Other places to which we were invited were a Young People's gathering at the New Norway Lutheran Church, to a Christmas program at the German Baptist Church and at a Luthern League service at Camrose Lutheran Church. Our orchestra eventually rendered a concert held in the Baldenstein school for our own home community. The evening was climaxed with a delightful Rag Ball Social.

During the period from 1941 to 1944 we lived on the home place of Elmer's parents, John Olsons. While we were there we farmed their land as well as our own one-half section. During this time we had the pleasure of boarding the school teachers. The fall of 1944 we moved back to our own place after the Alex Olson family bought the John Olson farm.

In the early 1950's there were many changes in

our community which greatly affected our lives. The Baldenstein School closed and the children were taken by bus to the new Sifton School in Camrose. Many oil wells were drilled in our neighborhood. I remember the excitement caused by the arrival of the oil rigs. We welcomed the gravelled roads, and were delighted with the coming of electric power to our farms in 1953.

With all the new development throughout the years from 1950 to 1970 we were much involved with the activities of our family, the farm, church, school and community.

We are long-time members of the Messiah Lutheran Church in Camrose. For several years Elmer served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. I was actively involved in the work of the Messiah Church Women, and was presented with a gold Life Membership pin which I sincerely treasure.

The telephone companies of our area and the district east of us joined to form Camrose North Mutual Telephone Company and Elmer served as President until the installation of the dial telephones by Alberta Government Telephones.

In 1967 my sister-in-law Bernice and I made an interesting trip to the Scandinavian Countries and several parts of Europe. A life time wish came true when I met my Aunt Victoria and four cousins in Naples, Italy. How timely my visit proved to be, Aunt Victoria passed away the following year at the age of eighty-four years.

On the occasion of our Fortieth Wedding Anniversary in 1970 our children gave Elmer and me a gift to use for a trip to Sweden and Norway, the countries of our ancestry. We are grateful to our family to have our dreams of travelling to a Scandinavian countries materialize.

Our five children had their elementary schooling in the Baldenstein, Sifton and John Russell schools. They all attended and graduated from the Camrose Lutheran College and subsequently went on to higher education.

Our daughter Donna Marie was born in Camrose on February 10, 1931. After graduation in 1949 she taught piano pupils in Meeting Creek and Bashaw for a period of three years, commuting by rail-liner twice a week. She again returned to Camrose Lutheran College to enroll in a Business Course and was offered a position as the receptionist at Radio Station C.F.C.W. when it opened in Camrose in 1954. In March 28, 1959 she married Robert Luce of Ponoka, Alberta, a graduate of the Olds Agricultural College. He has farmed continuously and maintains a large herd of beef cattle. Donna has been a church organist for twenty-five years and continues as a piano teacher as well as conducting the church choir and a High

School Chorus. They have three grown children: Janet, Brian and Cheryl.

Byron our eldest son, was born on November 26, 1935, at Camrose. In 1954 after graduating from the Camrose Lutheran College he attended the University of Alberta and taught schools in Bashaw and Edmonton in Alberta and in B.C. schools in Trail and Vancouver. At the University of B.C. he studied architecture, earning the degree of Bachelor of Architecture and later registering with the R.A.I.C. He operates his own firm of Olson Architect/Planners in Vancouver. Byron is an experienced mountain climber and has been trained for mountain rescue work. He was a member of the first all-Canadian party to successfully climb Mt. Waddington, the highest peak in the Coastal Range. Byron married Nancy Cooley of Charlottesville, Virginia, U.S.A. in October 1976. She has a Masters degree in City Planning. They have twin daughters, Oona and Rebecca and a son, Aaron. They reside in Vancouver, B.C.

Lyndon (Lyndy) was born on November 20, 1936 at Camrose. Immediately after his graduation from Camrose Lutheran College he had a job waiting for him at the Radio Station CFCW where he has been employed as Chief Engineer ever since. He was responsible for the installation of the broadcasting facilities of CFCW Radio including the ten thousand watt transmitter in 1960, followed by the fifty thousand watts transmitter in 1973. Lyndy designed and installed a CFCW sister station, CKRA- FM Edmonton in 1979. His early childhood love of radio led to his eventually obtaining the Advance Radio Amateur license with the call letters of V.E.C.L.O. He has a collection of four hundred Q.S.L. verification cards received from radio amateurs around the world. The most prized card was received as a result of a contact with the late Yuri Gagarin the first Soviet cosmonaut. In October 1965 he married Elaine Hendricksen of Tilley, Alberta. Before her marriage she worked in Saskatchewan as a parish worker, and later in Calgary where she was employed as a stenographer for Alberta Government Telephones. They have two daughters Kristi and Lynnette. Their home is on an acreage overlooking the Battle River Valley.

Theodore (Ted) was born on May 1, 1944 in Camrose. He graduated and took his first year of university at the Camrose Lutheran College. At the University of Alberta he entered the Faculty of Medicine and earned his M.D. degree in 1968. Along with his studies he included one and one-half years of Cancer Research. His one year of internship was spent at the Vancouver General Hospital. After a year of medical practice in Vancouver he enrolled in a course of study in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a year later received his degree of M.P.H. This qualified



Elmer and Cecelia Olson family, 1980. Back Row: Lyndy, Elmer, Cecelia, Byron. Front: Daryl, Donna, Ted.

him as a Director of Public Health. In this capacity he served in Nanaimo and Prince George in B.C. and in Peace River, Alberta. In December 1973 he married a public health nurse, Marnie Chapman, born in New Westminster, B.C. They reside on an acreage in the Cherryville district of B.C. with their two children Eric and Elizabeth.

Daryl was born in Camrose on August 4, 1945. After graduation he enrolled at the Mount Royal Junior College in Calgary for the first year of university. At the University of Alberta he continued his studies in the faculty of agriculture earning a B.Sc. in Agriculture. An additional two years was spent in Agricultural Economics. He married Leslie Smith of Montreal, Quebec in August, 1971. She has a B.Sc. in Biology and Chemistry and after coming to Alberta earned her Master's Sc. as a research technologist. After their marriage, Daryl was employed by the Government of Alberta for two years and Leslie held



Elmer and Cecelia Olson and their family and grandchildren, 1980.

a position with the research into kidney transplantation. In 1973 they moved back to Camrose for full time farming. They have two children, Stephen and Laurel.

On October 19, 1980 Elmer and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We are semi-retired and continue to live on the farm, where we find time to pursue our favorite hobbies and also take interest in the many farm operations.

Elmer and Cecelia Twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary October 19, 1955

A Stoney Point of Woo!

From the tribe of John E. Olson
Valdres chief from County Big Stone
Came a tiny, little offspring
Which they christened Elmer Sigvart.

Born was he by Stoney Waters
By the creek that flowed nearby
Fed by thousand barnyard waters,
Ending here in Calgary's — you know!

He no roebuck killed when seven.
He not ever up 'til 'leven,
Only then to heave the shoes back
Thrown at him by papoose Alec.

I repeat, he was no hunter —
Not of roebuck or of rabbit.
Much too tame this hunting for him.
Him no sissy — him hunt big stuff.
What he hunt for? That comes later.
To tell it then, I think safer.

At the age of 19-20,
Game his way a new invention.
This no little play contraption.
This a model T — By Henry!

This they gave our Elmer Sigvart
For to hunt as beau and fliver.

Spoke a noble speech our father.
“Ford”, said, he “can be your brother!
Take it son out on the roadway,
Take this monstrous two-eyed monster,
You be beau and it be Fliver.
Go and hunt for us a daughter.
Go not near that Stoney water,
Which is fed by — why repeat it?
Find a maiden strong and able
Who can pump and clean a stable.
Bring for us a squaw that's willing
To do her share of daily swilling.”

Out onto the roadway drove he
Close beside the Stoney Waters
Fed by thousand — oh, excuse me!

Out he went to hunt the dearie,
Out to stab a heart — the cupid,
Out to rob some chieftain's wigwam
Of its prizest, choicest squawlet.

Down the road he drove the fliver.
He the beau and Ford the fliver.
He the mighty Norske hunter,
He with mighty clutch would stall her —
And so he did — but 'twas the fliver.

He the big stuff hunt — you bet you.
He no little stuff go after.
He haul squaws that reach the rafters.
But — that soon be all forgotten.

From across the southern border
Came a Swede's most comely daughter.
She no big and buxom maiden
She just nice, and **far** from twenty,
By the name of Miss Cecelia.

Came this maid from Minnesota,
Now no Model T can hold him.
He no time to stop and crank her,
He need Chev and a self-starter,
Or else he lose that Southern daughter.

He get Chev and hunt get faster,
Elmer now know what he's after.
Chev or walk, it's all the same
Long as he can see his dame.
Matter not that papa follow
with the lantern through the hollow
By the waters of the Stoney —
Some to snoop but more to wonder,
If Elmer get what he go after.

He get her sure and man alive!
He's had her now years twenty-five
Our wish for them is short and nifty,
**WE'LL SEE YOU HERE WHEN YEARS ARE
FIFTY!**

Writ sans wit —
By Luther S. Olson
Bard of Stoney Waters (now
both dried up)

Daryl and Leslie (Smith) Olson Written by Daryl

In those far off days back in August 1945, it had been raining and the roads had deep ruts that could easily swallow the highest wheels — even those of a 1929 Model A Ford. Since births have a habit of occurring at any time or place with little regard for convenience, it was fitting that August 4, 1945 be the day I was born to Elmer and Cecelia Olson. I was the fifth child to join the family and of course remain grateful that they “chose me” to be their son. I was



Daryl and Leslie Olson, Stephen and Laurel.

born too late to have the noble distinction of being born in a covered wagon traversing the prairie landscape of Minnesota, as had my grandfather, John Olson and his twin brother Ole. However I had the dubious distinction of ushering in the nuclear age which was about to dawn (Hiroshima, August 6, and Nagasaki, August 9, both in 1945).

By the fall of 1951, it was time to start grade one at Baldenstein School. Teddy was going into grade two and Lyndy was taking grade nine. Donna and Byron had already completed the nine years of education offered at Baldenstein and had gone on to high school at Camrose Lutheran College. Since Lyndy was the eldest of the three going to Baldenstein, he was charged with the mundane responsibility of harnessing the horse called Susie — a task he did not particularly relish. By fall the three of us travelled by horse and buggy north on the ungraded dirt road we called “the Kubbernus road”. No road existed around or through the big slough north of Kubbernus’ lane, so it was sometimes necessary to go through slough water up to the buggy axles. By winter we travelled by horse and cutter, using quilts and Dad’s trusty moose hide to keep us warm. Through spring breakup, we were usually driven around the block in the 1929 Model A Ford, and after spring breakup we went back to horse and buggy. One spring day when we were coming home from school, our horse Susie spooked and we had a run-away. Once Susie was brought to a stop in the yard she went into a kicking frenzy and proceeded to totally smash in the front end of the buggy. Teddy and I were soundly scolded for not jumping out of the buggy more quickly than we had. My report card recorded sixty-six days of school missed that year — presumably because of winter weather and bad roads.



Olson's farms — Combining at New Norway in September, 1976.

Throughout the winter of 1951 it was becoming increasingly apparent that a new era was dawning. One could sense the transition in the wind. We were leaving the era of lamps and lanterns, ungraded and ungravelled roads, one room country school houses and the horse and buggy.

Starting in the fall, a lone axeman was busy chopping and piling brush along the “Kubbernus road”. The hand-piled brush piles burned slowly throughout the winter, melting patches through the thick white blanket of snow and sending pleasant smells of wood smoke wafting into the cold, crisp winter air.

Lyndy would periodically stop the horse and cutter on our way home from school and chat with the axeman. One day we learned that the clearing was for the right of way for the future Calgary Power line. The rural electrification program was about to begin and the neighborhood was abuzz about who would get connected next.

With the amalgamation with other country schools and the formation of Sifton, a centralized school in Camrose, Baldenstein School closed its



Olson's Agrisupplies Ltd. floater used for custom applying herbicides.

doors for the last time at the end of the 1951 school term. And so the transformation from horse and buggy days, of one room country school houses with one teacher for nine grades to school houses and centralized urban schools with one teacher per grade was effected. Talk about cultural shock!

The years at Sifton and Camrose Lutheran College passed quickly. By 1965, it was time to leave the security of the nest and embark on further education in preparation for facing the world. Education in my parents time was a privilege, and so it was not surprising that education was much encouraged in our home. My lifelong interest had been farming, and it was natural that the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta held special attraction. After completing a four-year general program, I spent a further two years specializing in agricultural economics.

Through each successive year at university, the prospects of ever buying farm land continued to fade. The land to the west of my parental farm had been owned by Mr. Frank Stover for decades, and in later years was rented by Mr. Ingvald Haugen. A letter was sent to Mr. Stover to find out if he was interested in selling. Unknown to us, Frank had been ill and unfortunately had passed away before the letter reached him. The door seemed closed, but sometime later I was stepping off Dad's tractor one sunny spring afternoon when I was approached by two very affable gentlemen. They were Mr. Blythe and Mr. Crossman, acting on behalf of Frank Stover's estate. I remember to this day Mr. Blythe's statement, "If Daryl can't get this land to go farming, then no one can".

The year 1971 had been good to me. I had found a wife and purchased the land both in the same year. Leslie Smith had been working with Dr. J. B. Dossetor's transplant immunology lab in Montreal, so when he came to Edmonton to start a Department of Immunology at the University of Alberta, the offer was extended to her to transfer. She willingly accepted, and we met in Edmonton. We were married in the summer of 1971 in Winnipeg, Manitoba with the reception in her grandmother's home, where her parents had also been married. Leslie continued to do research with the transplant Immunology Lab, and I did research for the Alberta Government's Select Committee on Foreign Investment until 1974.

By 1974, my parents had passed the age where many people retire and so the time had come to return to the family farm. I suspect that Dad was prepared to hand over the reigns and I was particularly proud to return to the community as a third generation farmer.

Over the years our farm operation expanded with the addition of numerous rented quarters of land in



Olson's Agrisupplies Ltd. — spreading fertilizer on the Earle Erickson farm in May, 1977.

the community. Dad had brushed and broken some of this land and "Olson's Willing Workers" had threshed on some as well. More rented land was subsequently added at New Norway.

By 1975 we formed a fertilizer and chemical company called Olson's Agri-Supplies Ltd. The new Cominco plant, built in Camrose, provided the first bulk blending facility in Camrose and district. Three wheeled floaters were used for custom applying fertilizer and chemicals. After three hectic years of operating both the farm and the business, and not doing justice to either, we left the fertilizer business to give our undivided attention to family and farm.

On October 10, 1977 our son Stephen was born. Our daughter Laurel was born on March 18, 1980. They now become the fourth generation of the Olson family to inhabit this area since my grandfather settled here in 1901.

Alexander Olson Family

I am Alexander Olson, second in line of the John E. Olson family. I was born in 1906 and spent most of my life on my dad's farm.

In 1930 I met Margit Fremstad from Millet, Alberta, while she was attending the Camrose Lutheran College. In 1931 we were married at the Wang Church in the Crooked Lake District. We had the honor of being the first couple to be married in their new church. In this union we had two girls, Gwendolyn and Sonja, and one boy, Marvin. This being an odd number, we adopted a five-day-old boy and named him Bradley.

Gwendolyn is married to Jack Hagen and they are living on their farm north-east of Bawlf. Jack works at the Stelco plant in Camrose and Gwendolyn is an organist at the Bawlf Lutheran Church. They have three children, two boys, Alexander and Douglas, and one girl, Valerie.

Sonja is married to Donald Uglem of Bawlf. Don



Alex Olson farm, 1967.



Alex Olson family. Gwendolyn, Bradley, Marvin, Alex, Margit, and Sonja.

has a garage there and Sonja is a registered nurse and works part-time at her profession. They have four children, three girls, Joanne, Elain, and Leanne, and one boy, Dwayne.

Marvin is married to Yvonne Anderson. Marvin finished a four-year course in Ministerial Work at Three Hills Bible School and at present is on staff as Dean of Boys. Yvonne has a secretarial job with the Japanese Mission. They have two girls, Evangeline and Melody, and one boy, Lowell.

Bradley is married to Debbie Bentz. They have two girls, Sherry and Melodie. Bradley is employed with the City of Calgary as a transit mechanic, and Debbie works at an envelope factory.

After farming for three years at Crooked Lake, we bought the home farm in 1944 and farmed there until 1973 when we sold it to Henry Wolfe. We now have our home in Camrose.

Bernice Olson

by Elmer S. Olson

Bernice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Olson was born July 26, 1911 and attended Camrose Lutheran College for one year before she began work at Bill's Cafe in 1929. For twenty-three years she served as waitress and cook in his restaurant. Then for three years she was cook at the Camrose Lutheran College. In 1957 she enrolled in a course of nursing



Bernice Olson.

in Calgary and in December of that year graduated as a certified nursing aide. For three years she was employed at the Aberhart Memorial Sanitarium in Edmonton. She returned to Camrose in July 1961 and served in the Bethany Auxiliary Hospital until her retirement in August, 1976. The Bethany Home and Hospital held a Retirement Tea in her honor on October 20, 1976.

The Raymond and Esther Olson Family by Elmer S. Olson

Raymond, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Olson was born on May 9, 1913. He graduated from the Camrose Lutheran College in 1933. He felt the call into the ministry and left for Minneapolis, Minnesota to enroll in the Augsburg College and Seminary. In July 1938 Raymond married Esther Magnuson, a neighbor girl. His studies continued at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. After serving one year of internship at Libby, Montana he was ordained at Camrose in July 1941.

Raymond was an Evangelical Pastor for forty years, serving parishes in Claresholm and Armena in Alberta and Zion Lutheran in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He was instrumental in organizing the new parishes of Lomond, Alberta, Calvary Lutheran in Edmonton, Faith Lutheran in Calgary and St. Albert Lutheran in St. Albert, Alberta.



Rev. Raymond and Esther Olson family. Back Row: Carol, Sharon, Vale, Clarice. Front: Raymond, Esther.

Since 1975 he has served as an evangelist in the Lutheran Evangelical Movement for Western Canada.

Raymond and Esther have four married daughters and nine grandchildren.

Clarice, a secretary, is married to Trevor Holfeld, they live in Calgary.

Sharon, a secretary, is married to Dr. Ken Andall, they live in North Vancouver, B.C.

Vale, a nurses assistant, married Bob Hunter and make their home in Red Deer, Alberta.

Carol, a nurse, married Allan Henry and live in St. Albert, Alberta.

Raymond and Esther are semi-retired and make their home in Camrose.

The Luther and Florence Olson Family

Luther was born June 4, 1915, a son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Olson. After graduating from the Camrose Lutheran College he enrolled in the University of Alberta earning his Bachelor of Education degree.

In September 1939 he married Florence Magnuson, a neighbor girl. She was a teacher and together they taught in nearby areas. Luther taught school twelve years. Five of them in the Bawlf, Kingman and Armena areas, then at the Camrose Lutheran College for seven years. He held the post of Clinic Administrator at the Smith Clinic in Camrose for twenty-five years.

During his lifetime Luther was active in many fields in the community and church. He had a special sort of love for the Camrose Lutheran College. Luther and Florence had thirty-nine wonderful years together; building a home, a lakeside cabin, hobbies travelling and raising a family of six children:

Dianne, a nurse, born in 1942, married Leroy Johnson, they live in Camrose.



Luther and Florence Olson.

Stanley, having M.D. and F.R.C.P. degrees, was born in 1943, married Gloria Williams, they live in Edmonton.

James, an electrician, born in 1945, married Jennifer Hoosier, they live in Camrose.

Marcia, a teacher, born in 1947, married Arne Donovan, and lives in Tofield, Alberta.

Marie, a teacher, born in 1949, married Keith Ponto and lives on a farm overlooking Battle River Valley.

Ruth, a key punch operator, was born in 1954. She married Daryl Phillips and they live in Camrose.

There are eighteen grandchildren.

Luther was a man of good company and humor. He was also a man of deep faith. An excerpt from what he wrote a short while before he passed away on January 8, 1978 is as follows:

“God’s love has extended into every area of our lives. Placing ourselves in God’s hand involves no risk. God’s gifts to us have been so wide and large.”

Ole Olson’s

Ole E. Olson, son of Engebret and Anna Olson (Braaten) was born a twin to John Olson on March 27, 1872 in Goodhue County, Minnesota. He came to Canada and settled in the Armena area in 1902. On December 5, 1906 Gertrude Moe and Ole were married, Pastor T. T. Carlson performing the ceremony.

They were blessed with eight children, six sons — Julius, Anton, Rudolph, Palmer, Chester and Iver and two daughters Alpha and Geneva.



Gertrude Moe and Ole E. Olson, wedding picture, December 5, 1906.

They farmed for many years in the Armena area and then moved to Camrose to their house on 5013-52A St. where they lived until their passing. Ole passed away May 11, 1945 and Gertrude on July 10, 1960.

They were active in community affairs and as members of Scandia Church. Grandma Moe lived with them for fifteen years.

Anton Olson was born at Armena on November 24, 1909. He attended the Lyseng School and worked at various occupations before settling on the family farm. On August 27, 1949, he was married to Norma Olsen of Sedgewick. Anton and Norma lived on the farm for two years after their marriage and then moved to Camrose where Anton managed a Massey Harris dealership. In 1956, Anton was forced to retire due to illness. He passed away on January 4, 1963. Norma continues to live in Camrose.

Anton and Norma had two children. Lorna, the eldest, was born on January 14, 1951. She took her schooling in Camrose and then graduated from nursing at Foothills Hospital in Calgary. She worked as a nurse in Yellowknife and there met her husband, Glen Hamilton of Dawson Creek, British Columbia.



Ole E. Olson family. Back Row: Palmer, Anton, Alpha, Julius, Rudolph. Center Row: Geneva, and Chester. Front: Ole E. Olson, Iver, Gertrude.

Lorna and Glen were married on June 15, 1974. They have two children; Matthew (born May 3, 1975) and Sari Liane (born January 18, 1978). After moving from Yellowknife in the summer of 1980, the family lived in Camrose for a short time. They now live at the Sundance power plant near Wabamun where Glen works for Trans Alta Power.

Verlyn was born on February 4, 1954. He also took his early schooling in Camrose. After attending Camrose Lutheran College, he enrolled at the University of Alberta where he received his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law Degrees. He is presently working as a lawyer in Camrose with Andreassen, Ziebart and Olson. On May 15, 1976, he married Mardell Skaret, eldest daughter of Marville and Dolores Skaret of Armena. They have one daughter, Laura, born October 23, 1979 and one son, Hans, born on October 26, 1981.

Alpha married Torkel Osness on April 5, 1936. Torkel was born in Story City, Iowa on November 27, 1904. He came with his parents to the Kingman area



Ole E. Olson home in Pretty Hill, 1928.

in 1909 where we farmed until Torkel's death on September 24, 1971. Two years later the farm was sold and Alpha now lives in Camrose.

Our children, Delores, Verneil, David and Roger grew up in the Kingman area and now have their own homes in the surrounding areas.

Delores was born April 25, 1939 and attended school in Round Hill and Kingman, finishing her



Grandma Moe and her grandchildren.

high school in Camrose Lutheran College. She attended C.L.B.I. for one term then went on to Royal Alexandra Hospital School of Nursing for three years, graduating as an R.N. on March 24, 1961. Delores married Lyle Bratrud of Holden on February 11, 1961 at the Salem Lutheran Church in Kingman. They continued to work in Edmonton for several years before buying their farm N.E. 24-48-17 W4 southwest of Holden. Lyle raises purebred Herefords besides farming. Delores is doing some part time nursing in Daysland. They have five children: Dale, Ricky, Darren, Shelly, and Mark. They are active members of Zion Lutheran Church and are interested in music. The children are active in 4H Beef Clubs and also have a family curling team.

Verneil was born in Camrose on January 24, 1941 on a very cold morning — thirty below with a strong northwest wind. Roads were blocked and telephone lines were down for three days. She attended the Kingman school, took her grade twelve at Camrose Lutheran College, and a secretarial course at Gardner Commercial College in Edmonton. Verneil and Ray Hansen were married in Salem Lutheran Church August 18, 1962. They reside in Sherwood Park with their three children; Daryl, Douglas and Barbara.

Verneil is employed as a special education aid working with retarded and handicapped children. Ray is employed as a manager of Radiology Services at the University hospital. They are active members of Mount Olivet Church and also busy with com-

munity affairs — enjoy camping, golfing and skiing, both water and snow.

David was born December 18, 1944, a first grandson for Alpha's parents who already had six granddaughters. David attended school in Kingman and Round Hill — graduating from High School in 1963. Two years later he graduated in Electronics at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. David and Janice Skalin were married on June 1, 1968.

David and Janice have four children: Daniel, James, Kerri and Lee. In 1973 David and Janice purchased the Skalin farm N.W. 19-48-19 W4 and are presently dairy farming. David had spent fourteen years as an employee of Alberta Government Telephones but gave up this career to become a farmer.

Roger was born June 19, 1950 at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. He attended grade school in Kingman and took his high school in Round Hill and Edmonton. In 1968 he enrolled in a four year program in Computing Science at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. After working in Edmonton for several years he went to Calgary where he worked for Can Alta Data services for three years. Roger and Shelley McLeod of Delia were married on July 12, 1980 in Delia. They are making St. Albert their home where Roger has his own Computer Consulting Company. Shelley is working as a nursery school teacher for Evansdale Parent Association in Edmonton.

History of Julius and Iva Olson (1934-1981)

On April 13, 1934 Iva M. Harber was married to Julius E. Olson of Armena, eldest son of Ole and Gertrude Olson. Julius and Iva lived on the Tuttle Farm and also farmed the N.W. of 5-48-20. Julius and Iva were given four girls: Jeannette in October 1935, Iris in December 1937, Treva in August, 1940, and Letha in July 1941. Julius and Iva were faithful members of Scandia Lutheran church where they both taught Sunday School for years. Jeannette attended Lyseng school for a year under Mrs. Gilbert Nesvold. In April 1944 the family moved to Leedale,



New Years Day, 1941, at Tuttle farm. Left to Right: W. W. Harber, Mrs. Harber, Ole Olson, Mrs. Olson, Iva Olson, Alma Harber, Geneva Olson. In front: Jeannette Olson and Iris Olson.

Alberta where Afton was born May, 1946 in Eckville. From Leedale the family moved to Rimbey, Bentley, then back to north-west Camrose on the two Schraeder farms, and in January of 1952 they bought and moved to the Jacob Yoder farm, three miles north of Round Hill. Here the family attended Trondhjem Lutheran Church in Round Hill serving in the Sunday School, Luther League, Lutheran Church Women, and the congregation. The four younger children were all confirmed at Trondhjem. The children got their education at Grand Forks, Anderson, Round Hill schools, Camrose Lutheran College and Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose.

Jeannette passed away as the result of a car accident while attending Pacific Lutheran College, Washington in March 1958.

Iris worked at Foothills Bookstore, Calgary for many years. She married Ernie Damkar on August 5, 1961. They live on a dairy farm west of Calgary.

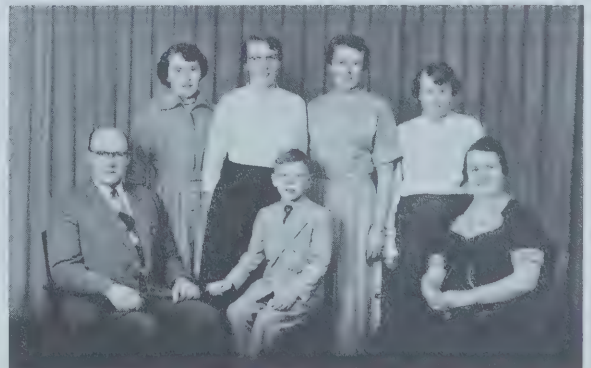
Treva taught school for two years in Viking, two years in Calgary, one year at Monte Sorri Special School, and one year at Haysboro Intermediate



Julius Olson family, 1941. Julius holding Letha, Iva, Iris, Treva, Jeannette.

School. She married Warren Felzien on April 14, 1968. They have two daughters, Jordis Joy and Glenis Gay. They lived on a farm north-east of Forestburg. In 1981 they moved to Bentley to carry on Lay Mission work.

Letha worked at Bethany Home for a period. She married Don Saltvold on May 12, 1962. They have Deanna, Lois, Teresa, and Donavon in their family. They farm five miles north of Donald and serve in Bethany Lutheran Church.



Family of Julius Olson, 1956. Iris, Treva, Jeannette, Letha, Julius, Afton, Iva.

Afton farmed with his Dad while attending school in Round Hill and C.L.B.I. in Camrose. He married Dale Vikse of Donalda on August 14, 1971. They have been blessed with Robyn, Heather, and Travis. Heather was taken home in May, 1977. Afton has farmed with his Dad all his life and now farms the home place, Sunny Side Stock Farm, three miles north of Round Hill.

Julius and Iva moved to Camrose in April, 1980. Julius passed away on June 17, 1980. Iva M. Olson now lives in Green Gables Apartment in Camrose.

Geneva Ordell Olson

Geneva Ordell Olson (second daughter of Ole and Gertrude Olson) married Roy Harmington Kinee on June 7, 1946. To this union three children were born, Barry Arman in 1948, Carol Ann in 1951, and Linda Faye in 1953.

Barry has been employed by Canada Safeway Ltd. for nine years. He left Safeway for three years to travel through New Zealand, Australia and Europe. Since he has been back Barry has worked at several of the Safeway Stores in Edmonton and the Spruce Grove Safeway since it opened in 1978. Presently he is at the Head Office in Edmonton as Safeway Coordinator, but continues to reside in Spruce Grove.



Roy Kinee family. Roy, Carol, Linda, Barry, Geneva.

Carol attended the University of Alberta and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She married Brian L. Mitchell in 1973. She has nursed at the University Hospital and the General Hospital in Edmonton. For the past five years she has been employed by the Edmonton Local Board of Health as a public health nurse and now as a community case coordinator with the Home Care Program. Brian is employed with Spencer Real Estate Ltd.

Linda attended Henderson's Business College in Edmonton. In 1975 she married Wayne Dickinson

and they have one son Shane Richard. At the present time Linda is employed at Toyota Village in Edmonton and is an office supervisor.

In 1976 Roy and Geneva sold their farm in the Dinant District where they had farmed for thirty years. At the present time they live in Camrose where they are now retired.

Rudolph Melvin Olson

Rudolph Melvin Olson was born at Armena April 10, 1915. He was baptized and confirmed in the Scandia Church and attended the Lyseng School. He served for a period of time with the armed forces. He passed away at the age of fifty years in Beaverlodge in 1965 where he was farming with Chester and Iver.

Palmer and Greta Olson and Family

There are six children and three grandchildren to date. We are all westerners. I from Armena, Greta (mother) from Enchant, Alberta. Odell (1948) and Beverly (1950) joined us at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Grace and Gloria picked the same day and came to our house at Provost, Alberta in 1951. Joy, our lone blonde joined our family in 1955. Then Rebecca came home with us one day, from Swift Current, Saskatchewan in 1958 when we lived at Kyle, Saskatchewan. She decided to stay even if she wasn't a boy.

Greta Skretting and I were married at Enchant in July of 1946. I got back from Holland in March — had been with the Canadian Army — 1942 to 1946. Our first year of married life was spent at Camrose. I was employed as a carpenter with a local contractor. The next fall, 1947 we moved to Saskatoon. During the war years I had upgraded my education and was accepted at Luther Seminary. In 1950, after ordination in Saskatoon, we moved out to our first parish at Provost, Alberta.

The following years until 1976 we were to serve in the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada in a total of twenty-three congregations, with brief interim ministries at Salmon Arm, British Columbia and Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. We lived in Kyle and Birch Hills, Saskatchewan; Bawlf and Sedgewick, Alberta; in Prince George, B.C. and prior to moving to Salmon Arm we had a home in Edmonton for several years.

We found areas for involvement and ministry in a number of community oriented endeavors, the Soldiers, Sailors and Airman's Christian Association, Canadian Legion as Padre, Air Cadets of Canada, Home and School, Half Way House for Alcoholics and in the last three years working with a workshop and care facilities for mentally retarded. I have also

enjoyed serving on boards of two of our church homes and fourteen years on synodical board relating to social services. In earlier years when our children were home, Bible Camps were a large item on our agenda.

At this writing we have just begun our retirement and live in Salmon Arm, B.C. We are involved with our church here, and other areas of volunteer work, especially with the mentally retarded.

Odell, married to Karen Saugen, lives at Clearwater, B.C. with Scott age eight and Amy who is five. He is a medical doctor and is majoring in anesthesia. He is a part of a five doctor clinic at Clearwater. Another daughter was born to Odell and Karen on November 29. Her name is Kari.

Beverly is now Mrs. Malcolm Dixon of Lloydminster. She is a nurse (she has done a number of other things) and works as "fill in" but her full time occupation is taking care of Jamie, just about two and the house. Malcolm is production manager for Husky Oil.

Gloria is a legal secretary. She has gone a circle — Calgary, Saskatoon, Prince George and Smithers, B.C. back to Saskatoon and is now in the office at the Veterinary College, University of Saskatchewan.

Grace studied and has her degree in Social Work. She has been parish worker at several places and now has chosen to work in the office of Foreign Missions in E.L.C.C. in Saskatoon.

Our family has moved about a bit! Joy holds the record for wandering the farthest. She has used her training degree in education to serve with C.U.S.O., in Nigeria, Affrica for a year. She will be coming home this fall and has her eye (I think) on a teaching position in B.C. With us she loves B.C.

Rebecca keeps a "half-way house" for us in Calgary. (Half way to my family at Camrose and Greta's family in Taber.) She trained for day care supervision at University of Red Deer, and has been working in that area until recently. She has switched to banking and enjoys her work with one of the banks in Calgary.

We welcome friends from Armena, the "little, big town" of our roots to 1840-36 Street, Salmon Arm, B.C.

Chester Olson

Chester Olson was born on October 29, 1921 in the Armena area. He was baptized and confirmed at Scandia Church and attended public school in the area. He farmed in the Armena area until 1962 when he moved to Beaverlodge where he had been operating a farm with his brother Iver. Those who knew him, will say he loved the outdoor life on the farm and he was one who had a deep feeling for the needs

and ills of his fellowmen. He passed away in Edmonton on January 28, 1964 at the age of forty-two years.

Olaf Olson

Julia Johnson Olson was born in Walwath County, South Dakota on August 19, 1886. She was the oldest daughter of Andrew and Brita Vevle Johnson. She came to Canada with her parents in 1901 and they settled in the Dinant district.

The Olson and Johnson families were oldtimers here, moving from the same place the same year.

Julia married Olaf Olson on February 26, 1904. They lived in Bawlf where Olaf and his brother operated Pioneer Livery Stable. Later Olaf and Julia moved to Castor. Olaf operated the Windsor Livery, Sale and Feed Stable, until it burned down. Then they moved to a farm six miles out.

In 1922, they moved to the Dinant District and rented the O. B. Nelson (Henry Young) farm for three years. The children attended Thronson school.

Olaf bought the west half of section 35-48-20. Julia passed away August 5, 1937 while living there.

Olaf and Julia raised a family of three sons and seven daughters.

Bertha, the eldest, passed away at the age of sixteen from diphtheria, shortly after the family moved from Castor.

Elmer married Celia Parry. They had three children, Earl, Margy, and Allan. After Celia passed away, Elmer moved to Edmonton and remarried Tress VanHeck. They had three boys, Ken, Don, and Bobbie.

Mabel, Mrs. Charlie Proulx, had one daughter Marion.

Agnes, Mrs. Ted Parry, lives in Camrose. She had three daughters; Lily May, (Mrs. Adolph Mulzet) who had four children, Glen, Marlene, Donald, and Sharon. June married Bill Dowson. They had two children, Dallas and Cheyne. June remarried and is now Mrs. Roger Irving. Carol, (Mrs. Glen Wetlaufer), has two children, Danny and Callie.

Arthur married Madge Doherty from Vermillion. They had four sons. Raymond, Ted, George, and Ole, and one daughter Judy. All of them are living in Prince George.

Gladys married Norman Shonert. They had one daughter Sharon (Jackson). Norman passed away in 1967.

Irene, (Mrs. Tom Campbell) has six children, Marilyn (Mrs. Kenneth Olson), Bernice, (Mrs. Willis Bolding), Vernon, Linda, (Mrs. Bryan Simonson), Dwayne, and Eldon.

Mildred married Milton Gerbrach. They had two children, Karen and Bryan. Milton passed away and



Olaf Olson's family — 1923. Elmer, Mabel, Agnes, Arthur, Gladys, Irene, Mildred, Alice.

Bryan passed away at eight years old. Mildred was remarried to Ray Winmill. They had one son Greig.

Alice, (Mrs. Arne Nessel) had two children.

Melford, the youngest, passed away at the age of one and half.

Frank and Helen Olson

Frank Olson came to Armena in August of 1930 to buy grain for the Alberta Wheat Pool. While in Armena Frank met Helen Thronson who was employed by John and Mabel Walker, owners of the Armena Store. In 1941 they were married and moved to Blackfoot, Alberta where Frank continued to buy grain. In September, 1942 he joined the Royal Cana-

dian Air Force and served in Toronto, Vancouver, and Pat Bay on Vancouver Island. After his discharge in April, 1945 he worked at various jobs until 1948 when he returned to Armena again to the Alberta Wheat Pool where he stayed until 1968. Due to ill health he took an early retirement and they have resided in Camrose since that time.

Mr. and Mrs. Severin Olsen by Sten Gunderson

Severin Olsen was born June 19, 1859, Skudeshawn, Norway. Severin spent eighteen years as a sailor on Norwegian sailing boats and travelled around the world several times carrying cargo from one port to another. Most journeys took ten months to a year to complete. The story of Severin's sailing trips is a history in itself and grandpa spent his latter days drawing the sailing vessels and naming the ports of call, and the cargo discharged and hoisted aboard for the next leg of the trip.

Severin Olsen married Anne Christine Fosse in 1885 and to this union were born two children, Martha Elene, January 13, 1886, and Haakon Olsen, September 27, 1887.

In 1893, Severin Olsen took his family to South Dakota, United States where they resided for eight years, before Severin took an immigration train to Canada, travelling to Wetaskiwin via Calgary. He helped feed cattle on the train and slept in the hay as



Rumble seat ride, 1932. Velma, Helen, and Ruth.



1927 — Severin Olson and grandchildren. Mabel, Sten, Severin Olson, Clifford Gunner, Morris, Agnes, and Stella Gunderson.

he made his journey to the Northwest Territories of Canada. He was in the company of Sten Gunderson who was also migrating to the Northwest Territories of Canada, to file on a homestead.

Severin had to walk from Wetaskiwin to the area which is today called Camrose to find his quarter section of land in Range 47-19. All land settlements were made at the Land Titles building in Wetaskiwin.

A diary kept by Severin shows that he spent \$777.40 to build his home. It was a log house using the local timbers and had an outside facing of siding which did much to enhance its appearance.

During the first years in Canada, Severin Olsen made several trips to Seattle and worked for fishing companies and made a trip to Alaska for one of these companies. His land was farmed by his son-in-law, Sten Gunderson, in his absence, but he finally decided to stay on the farm in the Camrose North-east area, which was called the Swea District.

Grandma Olsen took into her home, her grandson Sten Gunderson, when his mother died in 1919 from child birth and influenza, which was raging in West-

ern Canada at that time. A year later, she also took grandson Morris into her home. Morris had been taken in at the Anton Holm home at Lake de May and they cared for the infant for a year. Sten and Morris lived with their grandparents until Grandma Olsen died in 1924. The boys were returned to their father's farm at that time.

Severin Olsen continued to live on his farm and leased the land on a crop sharing basis until his death in 1939 at the age of 80 years.

Severin's son Haakon lived in the United States and died there in the 1940's.

Grandma Olsen was a staunch Christian lady and because she was confined to a wheel chair the last fifteen years of her life, she had frequent visitors and church services were held, along with Sunday school training for the youth in their home. This was done in the Norwegian language as Grandma Olsen spoke very little English. Grandson Sten spoke only Norwegian when he went to school, as his grandmother had him reading, writing and singing Norwegian before he began his schooling at Swea School, which was a mile south of the Olsen farm.

Thomas G. Ostrem Family

Thomas Ostrem and family immigrated to the Camrose area in February, 1914, making their home seven miles north-west of town.

Thomas was born in Utsira, Norway, July 2, 1870. His father's occupation was fishing and their family made their living from the sea. Thomas did not wish to take the compulsory army training, so before reaching that early age, he left home, bound for the United States in the spring of 1887. He made his way westward to Newman Grove, Nebraska where he did farm work.

Here he met Boletha Simonson, who had also come from Utsira. They were married in 1891, an ambitious young couple who worked hard at establishing a Christian home. They had six children; Casper, Amanda, Gustav, Bertina, Gerhard and Benjamin.

In the fall of 1905, Boletha died of tuberculosis at only thirty eight years. Her influence on her young family was a constant blessing to them and Thomas. He assumed responsibilities for teaching everything from bread making to clothes washing.

The growing children were confirmed at Shell Creek Lutheran Church and took part in Luther League and Sunday School. One time, with a horse and buggy, Casper, Amanda, and Gustav had gone to mid-week service. Coming home, it was dark and it began to storm. They sat huddled together, till suddenly, as the lightning flashed they saw their father coming with the team of horses and wagon. With their horse and buggy tied behind and in the wagon with their father they were not afraid. In like manner, the love of the Heavenly Father taught them.

One hot summer afternoon another storm threatened with lightning and thunder. Casper and his Father were cultivating the corn, each using a team of horses. Before getting to the end of the field to unhitch, the lightning struck and killed both horses

that Thomas was driving and he fell unconscious to the ground, with burns to his left arm. Casper came over the hill, neither he nor his team having been harmed, and quickly ran to assist him. When Thomas could get up, they came walking home together, very thankful that his life had been spared.

Another evening Thomas saw a storm coming and brought the cows home into the corral. As the cows stood by the fence, all six were struck dead by lightning.

It so happened that Hans Hanson's son-in-law, George Watland, who was living in Alberta, drowned accidentally while fishing at Dried Meat Lake. Hanson, brother-in-law to Thomas, wanted company from Nebraska to Canada for the funeral. While in Canada Thomas became interested in and purchased a half section of land, to which he and his family later moved.

While the boys worked on the farm, Thomas had a chance to be away and conduct meetings in different churches and farm homes, as an evangelist. This kind of work was very dear to his heart and he became well known in the area.

Amanda was married in June, 1914 to Pastor Lars Nesvig at Red Wing, Minnesota. Thomas took the bride and groom on a wedding trip to Norway, where he was reunited with family, after several years.

In the summer of 1916, Thomas went back to Nebraska, and on July 20, he and Emma Juelson were married. After returning to Canada, he made improvements on the house, hoping to have his home as a meeting place. Three children were born here; Clarence, Rueben and Evelyn. As they grew, they attended Lyseng School, a mile north of home.

In 1932, the Ostrems had a farm sale, and with the three youngest children moved to a small acreage at Ferndale, Washington. A few years later they made yet another move to Billingham.

Thomas died August 20, 1948 after a lengthy



Thomas Ostrem home north of Camrose, after house and barn were enlarged.



Ostrem family — 1918. Back Row: Casper, Amanda, Emma (Mrs. Ostrem), Gerhard, Bertina. Front Row: Gustav, Lars Nesvig and children, Thomas (father), Benjamin.

illness. Emma resided at a Sunset Home, Stanwood, Washington until her death in June 1955.

Casper, the eldest son, did well-drilling with Enoch Lovseth for a time. On November 29, 1919, he married Josephine Johnson of Dinant, Alberta. Their one daughter, Bernice, died in 1924 at three years of age. Casper predeceased her in 1922, dying suddenly from complications from appendicitis.

Gustav married Ragnhild Skaret. He was a pastor, serving at Ryley, Admiral and Preeceville, Saskatchewan and Joliet, Illinois. They retired to Camrose and he died from a heart attack in 1967.

Bertina married Arthur Skaret and they made their home at Armena close to home.

Gerhard married Helene Anderson of Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. He became a pastor and they were missionaries to Colombia, South America for twenty one years until his death from cancer in 1958.

Benjamin also became a pastor, his first call being Wetaskiwin. He married Hannah Everson from Wisconsin. They served mostly in Illinois and retired there. He died from emphysema in 1977.

Clarence married Leah Miller. They have three daughters and lived in Minneapolis, where he is a tool salesman.

Rueben lives and works in the lumber industry at Everett, Washington.

Evelyn married Mark Van Luven and they have two sons. They live at Anacortes, Washington.

Members of the Thomas G. Ostrem family residing in the Camrose area hosted a reunion in August, 1977. Family ties were strengthened and deep sense of gratitude expressed for the heritage that is theirs.

The Harold and Dorothy Otteson Family

Dorothy, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Olson, was born on May 18, 1921. She was employed as a cook and ward aide at the Lutheran Home for the Aged at Bawlf, Alberta from 1946 to 1949. When the residents were moved from Bawlf to the New Bethany Home in Camrose in 1949 she again served as a cook and ward aide. In April 1950 she married Harold Otteson of Enchant, Alberta. They farmed in the Enchant district until February 1962, when the family moved to Camrose. Dorothy and Harold



Harold and Dorothy Otteson.

started work in the Bethany Home, she was a ward aide and he as a hospital orderly. They have now retired and continue to live in Camrose. They have five children and two grandchildren.

Daniel is a teacher and lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Paul is a city policeman and married Donna Wilson, they live in St. Albert, Alberta.

Philip is an emergency medical technician and ambulance driver and attendant. He married Elizabeth Gibbs. Their home is in Innisfail, Alberta.

Darlene, a nurse, is married to Jim Robertson, they live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Grace, in nurse's training at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, will graduate as an R.N. in June 1982.

About Some of Hans Palm's Life by himself

About the year 1897 Hans' father, Johan Palm, at the age of eighteen years, left his Långsele, Sweden home. He worked in the copper mines in several locations in northern Norway before moving south to the Dovrefjell Mountains near Kvickne. He married Marit, daughter of Hans and Dorteia Drevelsmo of Haltdalen, located on the Gaula River southeast of Trondhjem. Hans was born there in 1907. For the first four years of his school life, Hans lived with his

grandparents, and during the summer holidays he joined his family who lived on a sater near the mine.

On the sater, the children had wide spaces to run around shooting arrows, fishing mountain trout, herding neighbors' cattle, climbing trees, and visiting the barracks where the other miners lived. The First World War soon affected Norway's economy, so before 1920 the mine was shut down and the family moved to Haltdalen. There Hans' father bought some small plots of land on which to raise hay for their cows. Hans had the job of helping to break up this stony land by hand. During the summer holidays he herded cattle on his aunt's sater on another mountain. When he was older, he joined his father on a railroad construction job driving a horse, and for several winters he shovelled avalanches of snow off the railroad track. He also worked for a few local farmers hauling hay or emptying their barn basements in the spring.

Hans' first schoolmaster was the "klockaren" or liturgical assistant in the church. The first school subject of the day was religion. Recesses were spent outdoors, even in winter, with folk dancing. The parish had three churches, so each congregation had services every three weeks. On Christmas morning the people drove with horses and cutters to church for the special day. Later they gathered at the community hall to march and sing around the Christmas tree and chocolate was served afterwards. There was no exchange of presents. On Pentecost Day, people gathered in small groups on some stone "berg" (hill), piled boughs of evergreens and burned them to see which group could make the highest smoke. Then they had chocolate. In Norway there was no Valentine's Day or Hallowe'en.

It was Norway Day, May 17, 1926, when Hans and his father left the family and boarded the train in Haltdalen, each carrying one suitcase. When they changed trains in Stören, the national celebrations were well underway. In Oslo by nightfall, they changed trains again, and arrived in Bergen early the next day. There they watched the activity on the docks until it was time to step onto their boat loaded with emigrants. The North Sea waters were rough en route to Newcastle, England. A double-decker bus took them to their train bound for Liverpool, where they saw steam trucks, huge dray horses, and dark buildings. On the Cunard Lines boat, Arania, the Atlantic Ocean gave them stormy sailing. A Canadian National train was waiting in Quebec City to transport the immigrants across the northern route, through the woods of Ontario.

In Winnipeg the employment center sent them to work in Saskatchewan. For two months, Hans, his father, and two other Norwegians cut brush to clear

land for a farmer near Hoey. When Hans' father noted the rich, black loam and compared it with the red soil in Norway, he said, "This is fat land." They were also impressed by the abundance of food on the tables in Canada.

From Hoey, the four Norwegians proceeded to Edmonton and cut more brush on a farm along the Saskatchewan River southwest of the city. After they left this job, Edward Satre separated from the others and eventually settled in Grand Forks, B.C. The other three came to Camrose just after the 1926 Norwegian celebration had finished. A Norwegian introduced Hans' father to Edward Lyseng on the street. The latter was looking for help on the farm during haying and harvest.

Hans' father bought a quarter section to which he moved early in 1927. His family came from Norway the following winter. Hans continued working as a farm hand until the fall of 1929. Then he moved to his parents' farm to cut brush and sell props for the Dinant mine. Later he rented land from different farmers and in 1934 he moved onto N½ 25-48-21, owned by the C.P.R. In 1936, Hans bought this half-section and then proceeded to improve the farm by cutting brush, clearing land, raising horses and cattle, and slowly investing in needed machinery.

For several years Hans' brother, Edwin, lived with him. On March 31, 1939, the two received in the mail their "British Subject Citizenship" papers. The next winter they worked together at Pearson's lumber camp where Hans had worked one winter, nine years previously. There wasn't enough snow in the camp to transport the logs so Hans and Edwin decided to return home on March 19, 1940. They spent the night in Breton and in the morning they discovered that eighteen inches of snow had fallen overnight. When they got off the train at Armena, they walked home through huge snow drifts. A few days later, people had difficulty driving with horses and sleighs to vote at Jacob Welda's place for the provincial election.

After World War II started, prices on farm products slowly climbed. Hans and Edwin continued to clear land, using their father's John Deere and Hans' Hart Par tractors for breaking. Then Edwin joined the army. He trained in Camrose and Shilo, Manitoba before sailing to England. He participated in the D-Day operations at Normandy Beach, June 6, 1944. One month later, his unit had marched to Caen and met the enemy in a disastrous battle. Edwin and many other Canadians were killed. In August, Rev. Bernhardson conducted a service in the Wilhelmina church in Edwin's memory.

After Christmas in 1943, Hans married Blanche Hanson. She was the daughter of Hans Erik Hanson, who had died in the 1918 'flu epidemic, and his wife,



Hans Palm family, 1951. Hans, Marian, Blanche.

Agatha (later Mrs. Knut Nordfeldt). Blanche had graduated from the Normal School in Camrose. She attended summer schools in Edmonton while she taught in the Norbo, Spilstead, Torley, Kinsella, and Glen Park schools. She also attended classes at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, and enjoyed some Lutheran Bible Camps at Sylvan Lake and Luther League conventions before her marriage.

Their daughter, Marian, was ten years old when Blanche died in 1954. She graduated in Education from the Universities in Edmonton and Honolulu, and taught for four months in Alberta before her marriage in Honolulu, late in 1967. On that occasion, the bridegroom honored Hans by having arranged for him to wear a white tuxedo along with the bestmen at the wedding.

On June 10, 1953, Hans and Blanche began to build their new house. Axel Dahlin supervised and Albin Palm and Helge Hanson helped in the building. By Christmas the family moved in. The old house was pulled to the new barn site after some of the top was lopped off. Hans put a new roof on it, and rebuilt the inside with hay loft, a cement floor covered with heavy planks, stalls, stanchions and mangers. Throughout the years, he also added granaries, other new buildings to the farmstead, and installed the water system into the house.

Hans spent most of this time alone with the related busy tasks of the fields and livestock. In 1967, he married Louise Eriksson who taught school as well as helping on the farm. In 1973, after developing his farm for over forty years, he sold it. The following winter, he and his wife travelled through nineteen



Hans and Louise Palm, 1980.

states and across Mexico. On that trip he renewed his acquaintance with three schoolmates from Norway, whom he hadn't seen for forty-eight years. Other highlights were tours of San Francisco, the Carlsbad Caverns, Aztec and Maya Indian ruins, Walt Disney's World, the Kennedy Space Center, and St. Augustine, Florida as well as the historic train stations in Merida, Nashville, and Winnipeg.

For the first several years during his semi-retirement, Hans had great satisfaction helping other retired farmers restore old machinery and other farm equipment at the Camrose Museum. He and his wife have spent many pleasant days in the quiet country air on their present rented-out farm. In these later years, they acknowledge the blessing of God through life, and remember in gratitude their many friends for kindnesses and prayers on their behalf.

Carl and Ethel Paulson

by Florence Rasmussen and Marian Paulson

Carl Olav Paulson, eldest son and third child of Erik and Johanna Paulson was born September 9, 1886 in Hoffman, County of Grant, Minnesota, U.S.A. He immigrated to Canada with his parents, settling in the Jordan Hill area west of Leduc in 1896 at the age of ten years.

Ethel Murry was born in Ontario and came to Alberta in 1898, settling three miles west of Kavanagh with her parents, four sisters, and one brother. She lived there until her marriage to Carl Paulson.

Carl left home as a young man and worked in



Carl and Ethel Paulson.

Southern Alberta, mainly in the Carbon-Didsbury area as a ranch hand. In 1910 Carl made a trip to Morse, Saskatchewan where he purchased a farm. Two years later he returned to the Leduc area where he married Ethel on March 13, 1912, at the ages of twenty-six and eighteen respectively. They moved to his farm near Morse, Saskatchewan and while there, eight children were born, John, Florence, Pearl, Marian, Melvin, Lloyd, Marjorie, and Clara. There was also an infant daughter, Hannah, named for her grandmother, who died in infancy.

Hard times and the depression brought the Carl Paulson family to Erik Paulson's farm near Armena. It was in September 1933 that Carl and Ethel arrived at the Armena farm with six of their children and most of their possessions in a 1927 Chev. Two months later, in November 1933, Grandpa Erik died at the age of eighty. The following month, Carl and Ethel's last child, Leona Alberta, was born. The two oldest children, John and Florence, had stayed behind on the farm in Saskatchewan to do the harvesting and also spend the winter there.

The following spring, 1934, Carl, his brother Albert, and a family friend, Dave Bailey drove back to Morse to bring their stock to Alberta and to finalize a rental agreement for the farm. On arriving back at Armena, the Paulson children were overjoyed to see, after their absence in the winter, their special horse, Nip, and her colt, Ruby.

On that Armena farm "7T", there was lots of work to be done but there were also lots of good times. Sorrow hit the family when Ethel developed cancer and passed away November 21, 1939 at the age of forty-five years. Carl stayed on the farm another four years or so and then moved to the Kingman area where he ran a general store for a number of years, before moving to another country store near Ryley. Retiring from work, he lived a few years with his daughters; Pearl Sharuga at Bawlf and Marian Myden in Wetaskiwin, and their families. He



Carl Paulson home two miles north of Armena.

returned to Camrose in 1962 and took up residence in Stoney Creek Lodge. In his latter years he suffered the effects of a stroke and eventually died on November 15, 1964 at the age of seventy-eight years. He was buried on November 21, the same day his wife Ethel had died twenty-five years ago.

John, their eldest son, married Ruby Thronson and they farmed in the Armena-Dinant area a number of years before he was employed by Esso Resources. The family was eventually transferred to Stettler where they remained until John's sudden death, a heart attack, in April, 1967. His wife, Ruby, passed away seven years later. They had a family of three boys: Douglas, Blaine, and Neil. Douglas is married and has three children; they live in Stoney Plain. Both Blaine and Neil live in Stettler.

Florence married George Rasmussen of the Dinant area. George was in the armed forces, stationed in Eastern Canada and Germany. On his return, they lived in Ohaton and Camrose where George worked in mining operations and Florence worked in Shirley's Bakery. They are now retired and living in Wetaskiwin.

Pearl worked in Edmonton for a while before marrying John Sharuga of Daysland. They operated a country store in the Bawlf area and trucking business until they retired to live in Camrose. Pearl became ill with cancer and died March 13, 1978. Her husband still keeps the family home in Camrose. They had three children; Lenora, Larry and Tim. Lenora is married and has three children. Larry is married and has four children. He and his family reside in Calgary. Tim is married, has one daughter and lives in Jasper.

Marion worked in Edmonton also. She married Steve Myden of Preeceville, Saskatchewan. They spent some time in Ontario and Montreal while Steve was in the armed forces. Upon his discharge, they moved to Delburne where Steve was self-employed as a mechanic. He joined G.S.I. Company of Dallas,

Texas, and they then made their home in Wetaskiwin. They also spent ten years in Libya, North Africa. On their return they have since made their home in Calgary where Steve is still employed by G.S.I. They have one son, Norman, married, with three boys, and residing in Calgary.

Melvin spent four years in the armed forces. He married Muriel Chapman while in England and they had a son, Roger, born there. They came to the Armena district in 1946. Tragedy struck when Roger was accidentally drowned near Bawlf. He was two years old. Melvin and Muriel farmed for a while near Armena, on the Klemmet Lyseng farm, before he joined Esso Resources. They spent most of their life in Redwater. Melvin retired after thirty-three years with Esso. He now has a riding academy. Muriel and Melvin have four daughters and three sons, Lorna is married with three children and lives in Lamont; Glenda is married and lives in Calgary; Joyce is married, has three children and lives in Edmonton; Debbie is married, has three children, and lives at Redwater; Brian lives at Boundary Lake; David lives at Edson; and Joey is at home.

Lloyd spent two years at Yellowknife prior to a three year stint in the armed forces overseas. He married Marion Wark of Ontario. They lived for a short time in the Camrose-Dinant area and have spent the last twenty-five years in Red Deer where Lloyd is employed by Esso Resources. They have one daughter, Diane, who is married, has four children, and lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and a son, Ron, who is married with two children and lives in Drayton Valley.

Marjorie spent some time in Vermilion where she was employed as bookkeeper after she completed her schooling in Camrose. She married Bill Chapman of



Surviving members of Carl Paulson family, July 26, 1980. Left to Right: Florence Rasmussen, Marion Myden, Melvin Paulson, Lloyd Paulson, Marjorie Chapman, Clara Smith, Leona Ellis.

Vermilion and lived there for some time before moving to Wainwright. The last few years have been spent at Entwistle. Bill is employed as a drag-line operator at Wabamum. They have five children, four daughters and a son. Barb lives in Edmonton. Pat is married and had three children. They live at Lac La Biche. Valarie is married, has two children, and resides at Holden. Brad is married and lives in Edmonton. Karen is at home yet.

Clara finished her schooling in Delburne and worked in a bank there. She married Lloyd Smith of Delburne and they make their home there. Lloyd has retired from the hardware business and Clara owns her own variety store. They have five children, Lyal lives at Rocky Mountain House, Rick lives at Fox Creek, Bev is married and lives in Edmonton, Brenda lives at Alder Flats, and Ken lives at home.

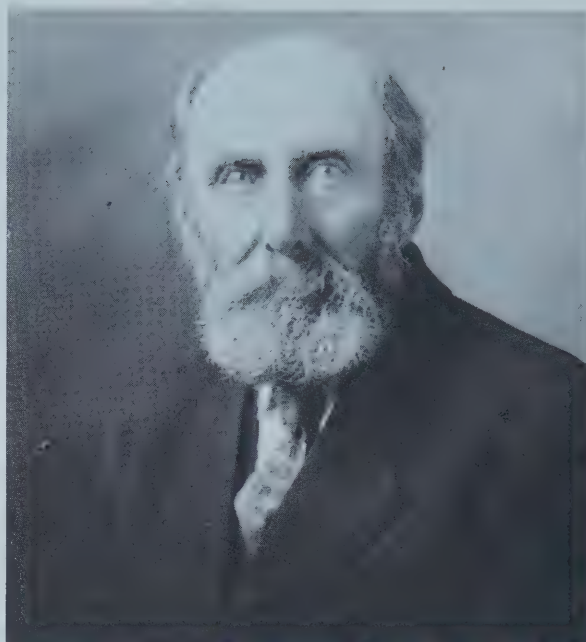
Leona finished school in Delburne and worked in Stettler for a while. She lived, for a number of years, in Saskatchewan as well as in other Alberta areas. She is now married to Scott Ellis of High River where they make their home. They have two sons, Roger and Randy. Roger Boyle is married, has one daughter, and resides in Calgary. Randy Boyle resides in Calgary also.

Erik and Johanna Paulson

by Florence Rasmussen and Marion Paulson

Erik Paulson, born in Sweden in 1853, and Johanna, born in Sweden in 1856, immigrated to Minnesota, U. S. A. in 1857. They were married in 1882 and left the County of Grant, Minnesota for Canada in 1896. They settled in the Jordan Hill area west of Leduc where they lived for twenty-two years. Erik was quite active in the community and was an organizer and trustee of the Jordan Hill School. The Paulson homestead was a stopping place for many settlers and their teams. On occasion, as many as ten teams of oxen and horses would be feeding in the Paulson barnyard. With their family grown and dispersing, Erik and Johanna sold the homestead in 1919 and went to a half section farm just north of Armena; it is presently owned by Noland Lyseng and David Stollery.

Erik and Johanna raised nine children, five boys and four girls. The eldest daughter, Hilda, married Walter Boyd and lived in Vancouver where they had two sons and one daughter. Emma, Mrs. Wisner, died in 1951 leaving no family. Carl, whose wife was Ethel Murry of Leduc, had a family of three boys and six girls and lived at Armena for a number of years. Frank married May Jones and lived at Hodgeville, Saskatchewan where they had three sons and two daughters. Nancy married Dan McMartin and lived in Edmonton with their family of three girls and one



Erik Paulson.



Johanna Paulson.

boy. Walter, a bachelor, farmed at Armena before retiring to New Westminster and Camrose. He passed away in 1969 at Camrose. Rose married Art Gallon and lived in Oregon where she passed away in 1952. Eskel married Josie Broen of the Armena district and had a family of three boys and one girl. Eskel died in 1974 and his wife, Josie, now lives in Tofield. Albert, the youngest, lived for a while in the Armena district. He married Dorothy Jones and they

had two boys and two girls. Albert retired to Camrose after working with the C. N. R. He passed away in 1977 and his wife, Dorothy, passed away in 1981.

In the spring of 1928, Erik and Johanna motored to Morse, Saskatchewan to visit their son, Carl, and his family; they were at the time, seventy-five and seventy-two years of age, respectively. Johanna passed away the next year, 1929. Erik stayed on the farm but died in November 1933 at the age of eighty years.

John and Ruby Paulson

John Eric Paulson born December 24, 1912 died April 13, 1967.

Ruby Viola (Thronson) Paulson born June 15, 1917 died September 8, 1974.

Douglas John Paulson born February 26, 1945.

Blaine Elwood Paulson born January 15, 1948.

Neil Anthony Paulson born April 17, 1957.

John and Ruby were married July 4, 1943 at Fridhem Lutheran Church and the wedding reception was held outside at the Anton Thronson farm (the only hitch was Gerald Thronson announcing the birth of Ginger's pups at the reception). After the wedding and short honeymoon they made their first home on the Carl Paulson farm north of Armena. Then they moved to the Ingve Johnson farm which they rented and in 1945 the first born, Doug arrived. They rented various farms and while on the Lindstrand farm near Dinant 1948, Blaine joined the transient family. On a number of farms the family made a living until 1966 when John became employed by Imperial Oil. A house was purchased (first time) in 1956 in Armena.

With the family now settled down, Neil joined the troupe in 1957. Life in Armena was different from the farm. There was fishing with Frank and Helen Olson and a couple of good holidays, also holidays



John and Ruby's wedding, July 4, 1943. Carl Paulson, John, Ruby, Mary and Anton Thronson, Lenora Sharuga.

with Dick and Olga Erickson where no one worried about milking cows and other farm chores.

Aside from missing the Paulsons on holidays, Armena survived the growing pains of the Paulson boys. Each Halloween, Oscar Shold, Lief Nisi, and Frank Olson took the necessary mechanical and security action to protect their outhouses.



Picnic at Armena.

Most summers there was a pet show (Blaine's chicken never got over the experience of the lease) Neil and Scamp (our fat dog) would usually give the big finishing act. The chicken flock and Blaine's cattle herd (one head) which he maintained on our lot, never caused any zoning change in the hamlet. Doug's illegal radio station didn't cause too many complaints and even the business community (uncle Raynold's store) saw the benefits of radio advertising Uncle Raynold purchased commercials with 22 shells). Neil became an expert on sampling the neighbor's vegetable garden (he got away with it because he was small).



Tenting days. Douglas, John, Blaine, Ruby and Neil.

Jens Ronning (C.N.R.) kindly donated some material and the railway track ditch as a proving ground for the rafts that the Armena kids built. Because the Paulson house was closest there was a special clothes line for the kids who wanted to dry off before going home. Further down the railway track in another ditch was the Armena swimming pool. We heard rumors that the big kids, Terry, Lowell, Alfred, Lyle first discovered it and named it "Bare Bum Beach" (Jens Ronning changed the name).

John, Ruby and the boys spent many pleasant years in Armena. With friends and relatives close by the lifestyle was comfortable and not without humor.

In 1964 John's work with Imperial Oil Co. caused the family to move to Stettler, Alberta.

Today the memory of John and Ruby live on in their family: Doug and Pam (Leach from Eckville) live with their three children Andrea, Skyler, Jonathan in Stony Plain, Alberta. Doug is a freelance Broadcaster.

Blaine lives in the family home at Stettler and works for Gulf Canada Resources.

Neil is at Saskatoon attending university working on his Bachelor of Education.

Olaf Pederson

by Oscar and Ruth Jasman

Olaf Pederson was born at Maldtustranda, Norway on December 25, 1875. Mrs. Marie Pederson was born Marie Lyseng at Clinton, Minnesota on August 19, 1882.

Olaf Pederson came to the Armena district together with the Albert Lyseng family in 1902 and in the following year, 1903, Olaf Pederson and Marie Lyseng were united in marriage.

While still in the United States, Olaf Pederson on January 29, 1901 had made application for N.W. ¼ of 32-47-20 W4 and received his reply concerning this quarter of land on February 11, 1902. However it took until February 23, 1905 to receive a patent signed in Edmonton and counter-signed in Ottawa on the seventeenth day of April, 1905 until they received legal title to their homestead, also a paper showing that on the twenty-seventh day of May, 1905, Olaf Pederson received his certificate of naturalization.

Olaf Pederson also bought the west half of the quarter section directly south of their homestead, which is not quite eighty acres as eventually the Canadian Northern Railway bought a small portion of the south west corner as the railway was built through to Edmonton. This eighty acres (less a fraction) is really quite a high hill, the highest elevation in that area and was a battleground for two Indian tribes, the Cree and the Blackfoot in the earlier days. It is told that these two tribes staged a real battle on

this hill sometime before the white settlers came into this area. Many Indians were killed in this vicious battle between these two tribes. A chief of one fell here and because his name was "Pretty" this hill was named Pretty Hill. Later when Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Pederson received title to this eighty acres they found this Indian chief's grave almost to the east side of the eighty acres. There was quite a deep depression here, marked with a ring of stones around it. It was also told that many of these Indians who escaped with their lives from this battle died some time later from the scourge of small-pox. There was an Indian trail that ran across this hill running from the south-west corner to the north-east corner and on. The main Blackfoot camp was at Sarcee (close to where Calgary now is) and the Cree Indians camped out mostly around the south part of Beaverhill Lake. Also found on top of Pretty Hill were Indian arrow heads, stone hammer heads and some bleached buffalo skulls.

In 1898 a post office and store was started on the east shore of Bittern Lake, and in 1903 a post office was set up on Pretty Hill by Olaus Olson, this being a district to the south-east of which Armena became a part.

Olaf Pederson first built a shack on their homestead. The lumber he used was trees taken from the homestead and hauled to the Grue sawmill. In this shack Olaf and Marie Pederson's first child was born in 1904, a girl they named Ruth. Later a house was built and they moved into this in 1905 and the shack was later built onto and used as a granary. There were also three boys born to them, Alvin in 1906, Orvil in 1908, and Henry the youngest who only lived for a month. In 1914 a widower, Mr. W. S. Holland who farmed north of Daysland met Olaf Pederson in the Post Office in Camrose and asked Olaf if they would take care of his six year old daughter, Stella. She made her home with Olaf and Marie until she was sixteen years old. In 1920, Olaf and Marie went to Edmonton and brought home a foster daughter, Margaret Hughes, thirteen months of age taken from a children's shelter and she made her home with them. Olaf Pederson after a lingering illness passed away in the General Hospital in Edmonton in 1921.

At the age of six weeks Esther Lyseng came to the Pederson home due to the illness of Edwin Lyseng's wife (Nettie). Shortly afterwards Nettie passed away and Esther spent most of her time with her Aunt, Mrs. Marie Pederson.

In 1922 Mrs. Marie Pederson moved into Camrose for one year, renting quite a large house, moving with her were the three younger girls, Stella, Esther and Margaret, also her two boys, Alvin and Orvil. Ruth, who was employed in Camrose, stayed with her. Mrs. Pederson also boarded four girls going

to Normal School, Christine Berquist, Stella Erqurhart, Olga Holle and Mabel Soderman, so you could say the house was really occupied at meal times and evenings when relaxation time came and bed time came around.

In 1923, Marie Pederson, the three girls and Alvin and Orvil moved out to the farm again. There was a Norwegian bachelor from Norway, Gerhard Espeseth by name, who farmed this land for a few years at this time. A few years before this, Ruth Pederson had met a young man, Oscar Jasman, who lived some four miles south and west of the home place. This was part of a German settlement which was known as the North East Bittern Lake School District. Quite early in 1924, Oscar and Ruth planned to get married and with the consent of Mrs. Marie Pederson they set their wedding day for November 11, 1924, only she wanted us to get married in her house there on the farm. We agreed to her request. Also with that she said we could rent the farm for the year 1925. Oscar Jasman also agreed to break up some of the prairie right on top of the hill on the eighty acres, and so later on in the summer of 1924, using a sulky plow with a breaker bottom and five horses, tandom hitch driving east and west and working south over the hill he broke up twenty-seven acres in reasonable time, also discing it down ready for the next year.

Ruth's mother wanted to have eighty guests at the wedding and being that there would not be room to set up enough tables for all the guests at the wedding banquet in the house, and being it was still such beautiful warm almost June weather, they planned on setting up a large tent for the wedding supper. Oscar had inquired and obtained a very large tent from the Lutheran Innermission Society of Central Alberta which was stored at the Camrose Luthern College. This tent was used for many religious innermission services in a wide area surrounding Camrose. Oscar then with the good help of Gerhard Espeseth, who actually had spent most of his life as a sailor in Norway, set up the tent about four days before the wedding with the north end right over the door-way of the pump shed in which was put a large cookstove on which the meal was to be prepared. Mrs. John Olson had agreed to be the chief cook. The south end of the tent came up close to the garden gate only a few rods from the house. However, a few days before the wedding it began to snow, and being it snowed for several days we had close to three feet of snow, but there was no wind with it which was really a good thing for us. We were also glad that it cleared up the night before the wedding. All of us knowing that by the next evening for the wedding and banquet it would be extremely cold we set up a large coal and



Tent used for the wedding of Oscar and Ruth Jasman.

wood heater in the south end of the tent. Elling Olson promised to keep the fire going in the large heater while we were having our wedding supper.

Oscar and Ruth were married in the house the evening of November 11, 1924, by Pastor Andrew Solheim who was president of the Camrose Lutheran College at that time. He drove his car as far as the Loveseth farm four miles north of Camrose, however, because of the deep snow he persuaded Mr. Lars Loveseth to take him the rest of the way with a cutter and a team of horses. After the wedding ceremony that evening they all proceeded out into the tent for the wedding banquet, and even though it had dropped to thirty degrees below zero by this time, it was relatively nice inside the tent with the two stoves going full blast.

To seed and take off the crop in the summer of 1925 on the home place that Oscar and Ruth had rented for that year, Oscar borrowed from his folks all the horses and machinery they needed to farm. This did him for the first year of their forty years of farming life on different farms they put in after their marriage.

On September 4, 1925, Oscar and Ruth's first son was born in the house on the farm with Dr. Nordbye in attendance and in baptism he was named Hubert Odelle Jasman. In the spring of 1926 Oscar and Ruth rented the farms of three of Ruth's uncles, namely, Ludvig, Edwin and Carl Lyseng. Edwin Lyseng's in 1927-28 and 29, then to Carl Lyseng's farm 1930 through to 1936 and while we were here on Carl's farm on January 13, 1931 Oscar and Ruth's second son was born in Mrs. Marie Pederson's house in Camrose that she had bought there some time before. They had Dr. Kraus in attendance. Soon after in baptism he was named Morley Wendell Jasman. Subsequently the last three years of Oscar and Ruth's renting of farms they farmed Edwin Lyseng's farm again 1937 through to 1939. Having bought the home farm from Mrs. Marie Pederson they moved over there in the spring of 1940.

In the next twenty-five years that we were on the home place on which we were married and where Hubert was born we did some improvements, breaking up another twenty acres on the flat which was the north east corner of the quarter, also built a new barn with almost half of the lumber being poplar taken from the farm and hauled to the Lawrence Severson farm where it was sawed into boards and dimension lumber. The rest of the lumber was spruce hauled from Winfield for us by Mr. Algar Lyseng. In some of those first years on our farm we built about three or four new granaries and a brooder house for chicks, and a new well was also bored about the second year after we moved there.

Hubert and Morley are both graduates of Camrose Lutheran College and were given employment right after graduation. Hubert worked with a chartered accountant in Edmonton for a few years, and also for an oil company twenty-five or more years in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Central Canada and eastern Canada. Hubert married Ruby Ring, daughter of Emil and Ruth Ring of Camrose north-east. At the present time they have a quarter of land west of Sundre, Alberta and raise Silver Fox.

Morley began working in a bank in Camrose and a few different towns in the area, then he began working with Swifts of Canada, getting to be an assistant manager in Toronto, and as manager of the plant in Winnipeg. He had met a girl in Camrose, Norma Hilland, daughter of Nels and Olga Hilland of Camrose, and they were married soon after he joined Swifts. He was with Swifts approximately twenty-five years. They have four children, twin girls Shelley and Sherree, two boys Murray and Craig. Shelly married Ken Gerelus of Winnipeg and they live there, Shelley having been a nurse there for five years. Sherree married Don Macpherson of Milton, Ontario a few miles from Toronto. Don is manager of a large Dominion store in Toronto. They have two children, a boy soon four years old named Kristian and a girl Tana, one year old. Murray married a girl from Winnipeg, Joanne Cotoure and they live near Sundre, Alberta helping Hubert and Ruby at the present time. Joanne is teaching in Caroline near by. Craig is with Morley and Norma who now have a four pump Turbo service station in Sicamous, B.C. right on the number one highway to Vancouver. Craig is helping them operate the service station and finishing his high school.

In the spring of 1965 we sold the farm to Lorenz Wenig, a cousin by marriage and moved into Camrose. Lorenz broke up more of the bush land, built a new barn and house and also drilled another well on the farm.

Pederson — Hovde

by Mrs. Inga (Hovde) Pederson

Orvil Pederson, third child of Olaf and Marie Pederson (ne: Albert Lyseng family) was born in October, 1908 on the farm home at Pretty Hill about four miles south-east of Armena. The children got their education at the Lyseng School, and Sunday School at Scandia.

Owing to the early death of his father, his mother, sister Ruth, brother Alvin and little girls; Margaret Hughes, Esther Lyseng and Stella Holland moved to Camrose for a year where Mother Pederson boarded and roomed a number of "Normalities". Orvil and Alvin attended school there. Sister Ruth had now gone to work to help supplement the family income.

They moved back to the farm where a few hard years followed in spite of Orvil and Alvin working out as well. However, there were good times too. Armena community was full of young people going to church functions, choir practices, concerts, picnics and ball games, etc. plus their families putting on house parties in the winter time.

Through acquaintances with the John and Ole Olson and Carl E. Lyseng families; Margaret and Inga Hovde of the Swea district got invited too. Romances followed; thus after three years, Orvil and I (Ingva Hovde) were married on August 17, 1929. We rented the farm home from Mother Pederson. After staying a month with us, in September, 1929 she bought herself a home in Camrose from Lars Tuttle who had been a neighbor to the north of the farm for many years.

Year 1929 was a very dry year and harvest was in full swing at the time of our wedding. However, this was the last of the good years and we were facing the depression of the "thirties". We had been blessed with a terrific start of livestock and household goods through our kind, generous parents and many good friends so we didn't lack for a thing. The following eight and a half years we worked hard, long hours (especially in the spring) from five in the morning to milk our six cows and have the horses out in the field by seven. (Farming "Pretty Hill" you had to hold the "pace" — you know. You could see all your neighbors for miles around; and vice-versa.) I churned most of the cream, selling butter to customers around town (Camrose) with horse and buggy before the heat of the day. I raised around two hundred chicks and fifty to sixty ducks and turkeys under "clucking hens"; killing and plucking them for home use and for sale. I must say here — that even under our watchful eye, we would be minus quite a few through the troublesome bush gophers in the spring and the skunks in the fall. We also raised a number of sheep — their wool and meat for sale. Prices had dropped

drastically from 1929 — big steers were selling for twelve dollars, market hogs for four dollars, butter delivered to customers was twenty-five cents a pound. A four gallon can of cream was around two dollars, eggs were only ten cents a dozen and oats was ten cents a bushel! In the winter time (but not every year) Orvil cut props for the Dinant mine from the farm grove to help pay the coal bill; shot rabbits and got five cents each from a fox ranch near Camrose and trapped an occasional coyote. Weasels were quite numerous so he trapped them, receiving around a dollar to a dollar-fifty, depending on the quality of the skins, for a little extra spending money.

However, we loved this farm life, our growing family and kind neighbors. Four of our children were born here: Henry, Harvey, Merle and Marjorie. In 1938 we were offered a larger farm to rent ten miles north-east of Camrose in the Lake-de-May district from Mr. Ted Engebritson. Brother Alvin, now married to Alien Lindberg, moved on to the farm home. With the dry years practically over and boarding the teachers from Lake-de-May school (quarter of a mile away), our children doing janitor work, besides more acres to farm and more livestock and better prices, we felt we really got ahead here — but not enough to dare buy this good half section for fifty-five hundred dollars. After eight years here, in 1946 Mr. Engebritson offered us a quarter (S. W.-32-47-19-W4) to buy at a very reasonable price in the Swea district just six and one half miles north-east of Camrose, which has been our home for twenty-eight years — from 1946 to 1974 when we retired to Camrose to 4920-52 A St. In the meantime we had acquired more land in the

Swea and Lake-de-May districts; selling out to Vern Fipkes and some to our son, Merle. Three sons, Lyle, Ralph and Wayne had now been added to our family.

Even when tied down to a farm and chores, we managed to take a “big” holiday separately while the other kept the “home fires burning”, so to speak. Orvil, being interested in livestock especially, heavy horses, was one of the directors of that class for many years at the Camrose Fair. He had the opportunity to go to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair for a week with Fritz Adamson of Lake-de-May in November of 1966 and in December of 1973 to the Regina Agribition with Ed Seljehoug of Kingman, also a lover of horses. Both fairs were educational and thoroughly enjoyed, and a nice winter break away from the farm.

I, being born in the beautiful country of Norway, had the good fortune to visit my homeland with Ruth Adamson and Esther and Guttorm Rosland visiting relatives for six weeks in the summer of 1964. It was a chartered flight and a most enjoyable one, as so many of the passengers were from this area in Alberta and the cost being only three hundred and forty-five dollars. We left from Nisku, Edmonton airport and flew directly to Oslo, Norway, over the Polar route, via C.P. Airlines in eight hours. What a wonderful carefree holiday with loved ones; never to be forgotten!

At this time of writing all our children are married.

Henry is deceased — 1931.

Harvey, of Lake-de-May married Gertrude Raab of Provost in 1959. They were engaged in mixed farming. They had three children, Joan, Janice and Brent. In 1963, Harvey met with a fatal accident.

Merle of Lake-de-May married Lois Wiley of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan in 1956. Being in partnership with Harvey, Merle carried on with the mixed farming operation and is also employed with Byers Feed Store and Flour Mill in Camrose. Merle and Lois have three children; Darryl, Randall and Dianne.

Marjorie of Camrose married Lloyd Grove of Bawlf, Alberta. Lloyd is now self-employed in carpentering and general home improvements, after serving as “chef” at Rosehaven for twenty-seven years. Marjorie and Lloyd have two daughters, Yvonne and Maureen and one granddaughter — Shauna Marie, daughter of Yvonne and Mark Mowat of Gwynne, Alberta.

Lyle of Lake-de-May married Carol Kjorlien of Camrose. They have three children: Joel, Mark and Cheryl. Lyle has a small hog ranch and is also employed as a nursing orderly at Bethany Home in Camrose.



Sunday School in Scandia. Back Row: Eldie Edvald, Alna Lyseng, Adeline Lyseng, Alvin Pederson, Stella Holland, Olga Skaret. Center Row: Nora Olson, Hazel Lyseng, Alpha Olson, Walter Olson, Orvil Pederson, Elmer Hendrickson, Vernon Stavne, Raymond Hendrickson, Harry Lomnes, Julius Olson. Front Row: Helen Lyseng, Evelyn Lyseng, Emily Lyseng, Raymond Skaret, Bennie Lomnes, Lawrence Hendrickson, Algar Lyseng, Klemmet Lyseng, Lester Lomnes, Richard Skaret.

Ralph of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan married Jackeline Wicker of Saskatoon in 1968. They have two daughter, Kelly and Bobbi. Ralph is employed with International Harvester Company as "Territorial Manager".

Wayne of Leduc, Alberta married Carmen Rasmussen of Standard, Alberta in 1980. He is employed as a baker with Safeway.

Since retiring in Camrose, our children and families invited relatives and friends to open house at Messiah Lutheran Church in Camrose to celebrate our fiftieth wedding anniversary on August 17, 1979. I might add here that fifteen of our immediate family attend services and Sunday School in Messiah and that we look forward to the family dinner get-together afterwards.

Because of good health we have had a busy retirement. Every winter we manage to take a two or three week holiday in the company of friends to warmer climates. Two delightful and educational bus tours; one along the United States west coast and the other through the central States as far as the Gulf of Mexico. The following year to Hawaii and since to Mazatlan, Mexico, Cuba and Jamaica and several visits to Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. We have toured most of our own beautiful and prosperous looking province of Alberta and parts of Saskatchewan and hope in the near future to visit the much-talked-about beautiful Canadian North — but in the summertime! However, Alberta has experienced several years of "ideal" weather — both winter and summer, and is in our estimation the "ideal" place to live.

Pastor Ove Pedersen Family

In November of 1967, Pastor Ove Pedersen accepted the call to serve a three point parish of Armena consisting of Scandia, St. Joseph and Bethlehem. Ove was born in Borup, Denmark. Immigrated to New Brunswick with his parents and two brothers and three sisters. A third brother was born in Canada. With hard times, Ove quit school after grade six and went out to work. He served two years in the army. After discharge he heard the slogan, "Go west young man, go west." This he did with a friend from the services who was heading for Tilley, Alberta. There he worked on a farm and later in a service station. Being young and restless he headed for Vancouver where he sold magazines for a few months and then coming back to Alberta, he settled in Edmonton where he worked at a service station. While attending Evangelistic services at Central Lutheran Church, Ove felt the call of God to enter the ministry. He attended a winter term at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute. Then in the fall he decided to finish his high



Ove Pedersen family, 1969. Victor, Cynthia, Ove, Karin, Karin Lynn, Joanne, Ian.

school at Camrose Lutheran College. With much determination and hard work he graduated in 1954. He entered Luther Seminary, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in September. But much to his disappointment, in January he failed his exams, so returned to Edmonton and resumed his former job.

He married Karin Nosterud of Tilley, Alberta on August 5, 1955. The following year Ove still had this call of God to serve him in the ministry. Again, he reentered seminary in September, 1956 and by the grace of God, the prayers and support of relatives and friends, and his great determination, he graduated from Luther Seminary, May, 1959. He was ordained at Central Lutheran Church, Edmonton. While a student he served Hanley, Saskatchewan parish. His first parish was Admiral, Saskatchewan 1959-1961, then Red Deer, Alberta 1961-1967 and Armena 1967-1969. The warmth and hospitality of this parish was very rewarding. We found the change from city life to country living a wonderful experience, it was quiet and we felt there was such freedom to roam; especially the children. We enjoyed the community spirit in which many shared in various activities. One great feature was the skating parties every Friday night, all winter, as long as there was ice or when it would hit 10° below!

However, it was short-lived, when Ove was challenged by a letter of call from New Denmark, New Brunswick, his childhood home. In August of 1969 we left for New Brunswick and had a rewarding ministry when again Ove was faced with a letter of call to return to Armena. With much prayer and thought he was led to accept. We arrived in Armena on January 3, 1975. Returning after almost six years we found considerable changes. It was no longer a three point parish but two, consisting of Scandia and St. Joseph. Bethlehem disbanded after their church

burned. One particular change which stands out in my mind was the new gas furnace compared to the stoker coal furnace in the parsonage. Therefore, no coal bin needed, my, for all the room in the basement!

Ove enjoyed his ministry in the parish. There were times of sorrow and disappointments but along with this comes the times of joy, challenges and rewards. Christ, our Rock and Redeemer was his source of strength.

Ove had again accepted a letter of call to Fredricton, New Brunswick (an L.C.A. congregation) to begin on May 1, 1979, when he was suddenly taken ill and died April 4, 1979. He has gone to his eternal home with Christ of which he so often spoke — "Not my will, but thine be done. To God be the Glory."

Since his passing I have purchased a home in Camrose where I work as a nursing assistant at St. Mary's Hospital. Vic and Pam (Gullekson of Gwynne, Alberta) were married January 17, 1981 making their home in Edmonton, working with Chimo. His future plans are to finish his education at university, to teach school and later enter seminary. Karin Lynn is living at home and employed at the Continental Bank. Cynthia is also in Edmonton and working for Chimo. Her plans are to go into nursing at the University Hospital. Joanne has completed grade X and will attend L.C.B. at Outlook, Saskatchewan, for her grades XI and XII. Ian, who has completed grade VIII is now the man around the house.

We continue to give honor, glory, praise and thanksgiving to God for His bountiful goodness, loving care and guidance towards us.

Peder and Clara Pederson

Peder was born near Trondheim, Norway in 1890. He immigrated to North Dakota in 1909 and moved to Canada in 1911. He homesteaded at Chip Lake, Alberta but when the First World War broke out he enlisted in the Canadian Army. He saw service in the front lines in France and was severely wounded in 1915. He was subsequently invalided home convalescing at his sister's home near Holden, Alberta.

While attending a convention at Scandia Church near Armena, Peder met Clara Lyseng second daughter of Eric ad Berit Lyseng. This romance blossomed and led to their marriage in 1917. In 1923 they decided to try farming and purchased the S.W.¼, Sec.36, T.48, R.21. W.of 4th. After a few years they had to give up due to health reasons. He then sold Rawleigh Products for a few years. In 1927 they moved to the west coast where he worked at a variety of jobs.



Peder and Clara Pederson.

In 1967 they celebrated their 50th anniversary at the home of Clara's brother Martin Lyseng.

Clara passed away on February 9, 1969.

They have one daughter Doris who is married to Wilfred Drader and they have five children. They are living in Wetaskiwin.

Peder is now living in a Senior Citizens Home in Vancouver is 90 years old and enjoys good health.

The Andrew Peterson Family by Effie Stapley

Andrew Peterson and his wife, Albertina, moved to Alberta, from Minnesota, to homestead at Viking in 1905. From there they moved to the Armena district in 1918, with a family of ten children, Philip, Olena, Ruth, Bessie, Archie, Myrtle, Emil, Adolph, Alvin, and Effie.

While living at Armena, the six youngest children attended Thordenskjold School. Archie, Myrtle, Emil, Adolph, and Alvin were all confirmed at the old Scandia Church, north of Armena.

Andrew and Albertina moved back to a farm at Viking in 1928. The original house they lived in while at Armena is still standing, three miles north of Armena on a farm presently owned by A. Shoenknecht.

The oldest daughter, Olena, married Art Movold in 1920. They lived in the Hay Lake district until she passed away in 1933. They had a family of six children.

Adolph and his wife Doris, and family moved back to a farm, north-west of Armena in 1947. Emil, his wife Agnes, and their family also moved back in 1947 to reside six miles north of Armena.

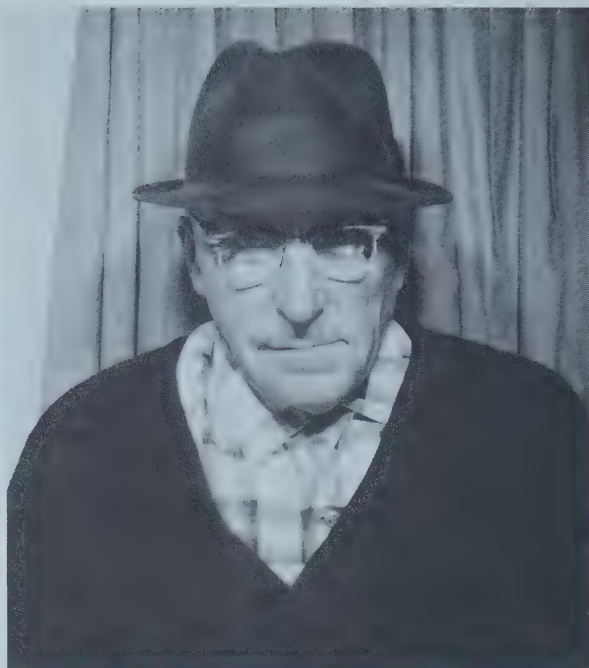
Effie and her husband, Reg Stapley, and their family moved to the town of Armena in 1969 where they are presently residing. Reg worked as a postal carrier in Camrose before retiring in 1979, after twenty-five years services. He also served in the Army for five years during World War II.

The Stapley children, Joanne and Wayne, attended Armena School and Hay Lake High School. They were both confirmed at the Scandia Lutheran Church in Armena.

History of the Adolph Peterson Family

Adolph Peterson was born in 1912 at Viking, Alberta. His parents moved to a farm three miles north of Armena in 1918. He attended Thordenskjold School until he left home to seek work in 1928. Doris Peterson (nee Grue) was born at Czar, Alberta in 1916. Adolph and Doris were married at Czar in 1935 and farmed there for twelve years. In 1947 they moved with their three children, Lavona, Douglas and Gary to the Armena district. Cattle, machinery and belongings were shipped by C.P.R. to Camrose, then put on a C.N.R. box car to the Armena siding. The old Movold homestead became their home for the next thirty-three years. In 1951 Adolph started driving the school bus which he continued to do for twenty-four years.

Lavona married Ordean Broen in 1956. They have three children, Daryl, Sandra and Donna. Daryl married Kathy Solverson in 1977 and they have one daughter, Heather. Daryl is a quarter-horse trainer for Broen Quarter Horses, a business he and his dad started in 1978. Sandra will graduate this year from Lutheran Bible Institute, Seattle and will finish her education at the University of Calgary in Social



Adolph gets his license for driving a school bus.



Lavona in Armena School sweater.



Adolph Peterson family. Gary, Lavona, Barbara, Douglas, Adolph and Doris.

Work. Donna is in grade eleven. Ordean and Lavona have a farm one and a half miles north of Camrose where they reside and operate their quarter-horse business. Ordean has been a police sergeant for Camrose City Police since 1962. Lavona is a realtor with A. E. Lepage, Camrose.

Douglas married Gail Struthers in 1963. They have two children, Jeff who is in grade twelve and Glenna who is in grade nine. Doug and Gail live in Edmonton where Doug is a partner in Peterson and Walker, Chartered Accountants. Gail is secretary at Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Gary married Sandra Bowtell in 1962. They have three boys, Garth who is apprenticing as an instrument mechanic. Mitchell is in grade twelve and Shane is in grade eight. Gary and Sandra live in Camrose where Gary owns and operates his own gas instrumentation business, known as Peterson Instruments. Sandra does bookkeeping for their business.

Barbara was born in 1953 and grew up in the Armena district. She married David Rioux on May 31, 1980. David does computer graphics for Associated Engineering. Barbara is Co-ordinator of Volunteer Services at the Royal Alexandra Hospital until the end of February 1982 when she will retire and become a full time mother.

Doris and Adolph sold their farm to Douglas in 1976 but continued to live there as semi-retired farmers. Dad enjoyed doing some farming along with Doug and they did a lot of travelling until Mom became ill with leukemia in August 1980. They were forced to leave the farm at that time and moved into an apartment in Camrose. Doris passed away August 17, 1981. Adolph has since remarried — Emily Sware (nee Lyseng) from the Armena district. They are making their new home together in Camrose.

The Joseph Poeckens Family

by John Poeckens

My father Joseph Poeckens was born in Rorbuck Dyle, Belgium and left there in July, 1875. He married Dora Verheyen from Rychen, Holland. They immigrated to South Dakota, U.S.A. and my three brothers Ted, Bill, George and I were all born there.

In 1910 they moved to Alberta to their homestead twenty-two miles south of Chinook, Alberta. My

four sisters Clara, Frances, Lucy and Elizabeth were born there. As children we attended Heathdale school about one mile south of home. Times were hard and the winters long. There were rabbits by the hundreds eating the oat stacks so the neighbours would get together and round them up to get rid of them.

My parents moved to Camrose in 1926 and rented the Paul Berg farm northwest of Camrose for three years. The girls attended the Balenstein school. Then for a number of years they lived on the Charles Duggan farm.

My father passed away in September, 1937, and Ted in September, 1941. George married Minnie Stasko in 1939. They have one son, Jim and a daughter Phyllis. For a short time they lived on the Frank Stover farm and the Hanson farm. My sister Clara passed away while there. George was tired of farming so bought a home in Camrose and worked for the Crawford Co. for some years. My mother and Elizabeth moved to a home in north Camrose where they lived until her passing.



John Poeckens family.

There are only three left of this family, Frances, Mrs. John Jordon, who lives in Victoria, B.C. and Lucy, Mrs. John Johnson of Edmonton, and myself.

The John Poeckens Family

by John Poeckens

After my parents left for Camrose, Alberta, I farmed my homestead and the home farm near Chinook for two years. In 1928 I married Annie Munro. We have two children, Vera born in 1930 and Merle, our son, in 1931. My father had wanted us to also move to Camrose, so when times were so hard in the early 1930's I began to look for something better.



Load of dead rabbits after the roundup.



John Poekens cutting a good crop on the Berg farm. Note the baskets on the horses' noses.

In 1933 after drought and grasshoppers left us with very little, we rented the Paul Duggan farm for the winter. We moved to the Hutchenson farm south of town in the spring as we had quite a lot of stock to feed. We lived there for two years. We then moved to the Sorenson farm east of Camrose and also rented the Roy place north of Camrose. When the Sorenson place was sold we lived on the Roy farm for a few years. While there we had the worst hail storm I have ever seen; all the windows of every building were broken and the crops were blackened as if they were summerfallow.

We lived on the Paul Berg farm for nine years. The children went to the Baldenstein school by walking down the railroad track. There were a lot of good neighbors and as the winters were long and cold we would all get together on the week-ends for suppers or to play cards. The young folks would go skating on the big slough north of us. In the summer they organized ball games. Harvest time was a big time for all and a busy one.

While we lived on this farm Anne had one of her most embarrassing moments. She was eager to try out her skill at riding a new bicycle and was on her way home from town and all had gone well until she arrived at the railroad crossing. The ruts were deep and no gravel on the road. Without any warning the first thing she knew she and the bicycle landed in deep water in the slough, and there was one very soaking wet and embarrassed lady to face her family when she came home.

When Vera and Merle were in high school in Camrose we bought a small house on the north side of town and Anne stayed in all week with them; coming out to the farm for the week-ends. We sold the small house and bought an acreage north of Camrose. We built a new house where we still live. I worked for the Imperial Lumber Company and Anne worked as a Nursing Aide at St. Mary's Hospital. Here she continued working for nineteen years. She retired a few years ago.

Our daughter Vera and Don Rude were married in 1949 and after living in Camrose a short time they bought a farm in Sedalia, in southern Alberta. They were blessed with four sons, Wayne, Brian, Robert, and Steven and two daughters, Karen and Janice. Don had an untimely death in 1969 and Vera managed the farm with the help of her family until recently when she moved to a new home in Cereal, Alberta. Her son Steven bought the farm and she still has an interest in it. Vera is serving her second term as President of the Women of Unifarm of Alberta, and travels a lot.

Merle married Darline Steere in 1957. He has his own Plumbing Company and also farms with his brother-in-law. Darline takes care of the book-keeping. They have two daughters, Shayle, Mrs. Bert Lorenz, Jacky still in school, and one grandson, Chad.

Anne is still active in curling and other interests. For myself, I don't get around too well. I have to use a cane at times, at eighty-one years in March 1982. I guess that's life!

Emil and Olava Ramstad

Emil was born at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He came to Alberta in 1906 and later filed on a homestead in what later became the Centennial District northeast of Donald. His first wife, Minnie Lien, passed away in 1920. Their twin daughters are Mrs. Norman Tollefson and Mrs. Roy Phillips. In 1927, he married Olava Nysven from Snerthingdal, Norway. They had one daughter, Ruth, who married Evert Grue of Armenia.

Beginning in the fall of 1952, the Ramstads spent their winters in Armenia, returning to the farm at



Emil and Olava Ramstad at their home in Armenia, 1959.

Donalda in the spring. They purchased the Andy Balaban house and lived in it until Oscar Grue built their new house. It was built on the original site of the Balaban house, and it was completed in 1955.

Emil farmed part of the Movold quarter after they had sold the farm at Donalda. They kept a large garden and potato patch each year. The tractor he used is still used by his grandson, Ron Grue.

Emil enjoyed the daily walks to the Armena General Store for the mail, and visiting with his buddies Oscar Shold and Oscar Grue.



Oscar Grue, Oscar Shold, and Emil Ramstad at one of their birthday parties.

Olava always enjoyed baking, especially lefsa, flatbread and cookies. She also helped stitch many quilts in the neighborhood. The couple greatly enjoyed the birthday parties sponsored by the Armena residents. During those years, Armena seemed like one big, happy family.

In 1967, they sold their acreage to Don and Theresa Nichols and bought a house in Camrose, but Emil passed away in October of that year. Olava visited Norway in 1973. She married Ed Malmgren in 1975, but he died suddenly in 1977. She is still living in her own house in Camrose and she is enjoying good health.

Rasmus and Kjirsti Rasmussen

by Ruby Atema

My Grandpa was born in Stavunger, Norway in 1856 and came to the U.S.A. in 1882. First living in Malta, Illinois for some time and then to Shelby County, Iowa, finally settling on a farm at Newman Grove, Nebraska. I remember him as a gentle unassuming man. He would go about his work quietly humming to himself.

Grandma Kjirsti Boe was born in Valders, Norway in 1868 and emigrated with her parents to Wisconsin, U.S.A. in 1869. In the spring of 1874 they moved to Newman Grove, Nebraska, travelling



Rasmussen family, 1918. Back Row, Left to Right: Clara (Mrs. Ted Walkemeyer), Sophia (Mrs. Nels Grue), Robert, Cora (Mrs. Abel Lyseng), Cecelia (Mrs. Carl Anderson), Mabel (Mrs. Harold Cotton). Front Row: Rasmus (father), George, Harold, Kjersti (mother).

by covered wagon. It was here that Grandpa met Grandma and they were married in 1890. They farmed here for twenty years and during this time were blessed with eight children, Clara, Cecelia, Mabel, Cora, Sophia, Robert, Harold and George. They sold their farm and moved into the town of Newman Grove.

Apparently they wanted to farm again and Canada offered better opportunities so they decided to move here. Grandma was quite a dominant person so she was the one who came to Canada to look for land. She bought land northeast of Armena (NE ¼ 17-48-20). Incidentally, the real estate agent was Pastor Westby also originally from Newman Grove. In 1911 they all arrived in Camrose except Clara who remained behind for a while, I understand because of a romance that was blossoming at that time.



Kjersti and son George Rasmussen, 1911.



Rasmus Rasmussen home built in 1911.

Ole Skaret met them in Camrose with team and wagon and brought them to their home where they stayed for three weeks until Grandpa built them a granary to live in temporarily. Imagine having a large family of your own and then accommodating nine more people. It certainly demonstrated the pioneer spirit. They worked hard to improve the farm but in 1919 they sold it and moved three miles east. This proved not a good move as the land was quite weedy and a great disappointment to Grandpa. He passed away in 1929. Grandma moved to Camrose shortly after, where she passed away in 1947. They are buried in the Camrose cemetery.



Rasmus Rasmussen family 1963. Back Row Left to Right: George, Robert, Harold. Front Row L-R: Mabel, Sophia, Cora, Cecelia, Clara.

The eldest of their children Clara married Ted Walkemeyer and their story appears elsewhere in this book. Cecelia married Carl Anderson and we can read their record also in this book. Mabel married Harold Cotton and they lived in Nipawin, Sask. and had four children. Cora married Abel Lyseng and Sophia married Nels Grue in a double wedding and we may find their stories under their own headings. Robert married Violet Ovelson of Kingman and they had seven children. Interestingly, in 1936 Robert bought back the original Armena area farm of his parents and lived there until his death in 1965. Harold married Stella Erickson and lives in Bremerton, Washington. They had two children. Stella passed away and Harold is remarried. George married Florence Paulson and they live in Wetaskiwin. They have no children.

Donald Rasmussen and Family

Donald began his life in 1928 living on a farm near Dinant. In the late 1930's the family moved to the old Rasmussen homestead near Thronson school, where he took his schooling.

Life in the early 40's was still hard, as the land had to be cleared of trees and roots, wood had to be



Donald, Wesley, Robert and Kenny find slings make easier unloading.

cut, sawed and split for the stoves in the house. Coal had to be hauled from a coal mine east of Dinant and it seemed this was always done on the coldest day of the year. So the horses would set the pace with the load on the sleigh and the driver walked behind, most of the way home, in order to keep warm. There were always chores to do, with tasks in and around the barn that needed strong hands on the pitch fork. Hard work became a way of life and all seemed to survive those years, setting the stage for life on one's own. One of the highlights of the teenage years was when Donald and Adair made a 'bug' from an old Model 'A' Ford car and painted it yellow. They were seen charging around the country until a traffic policeman put a stop to it because of no brakes, no fenders, not properly lighted at night and for using purple gas. The rear view mirror was carried in a pouch in the front door, just in case one wanted to take it out to see to comb one's hair, for it seemed it was never put on for its intended use.



"The Bug" 1950.

Donald left home to work out at the age of seventeen and spent the first four years running caterpillar tractors for Mannix Construction out of Calgary, working at Dodds, Camrose, Alix, Lake Wabamun, Brooks, Taber and Blairmore strip mines. In 1951 electricity was coming into the country, so he took up the electrical trade, becoming a 'First Class Journeyman' electrician in 1955. During this period he had a hand in wiring over 300 farms all around Camrose. Also in 1951 he met Elinor Upham who was teaching school east of Camrose at the Hampton school. They were married that same year and their nomad life began.

They moved west of Edmonton to Edson, Then to Evansburg where a business was started. This was sold in 1959 and Donald accepted a position as an Alberta Government electrical inspector. He first worked out of Red Deer, then was transferred to Medicine Hat. He 1963 he felt called to the ministry and entered the Lutheran Theological seminary in Saskatoon. He graduated in 1966 and was ordained at Scandia, Armena. Since then he has served parishes in Simmie and Weyburn, Saskatchewan, and is now at Bethany Lutheran in Dickson, Alberta, west of Innisfail. The Lord has blessed Don and Elinor with five children. They are all married and living in Alberta. David married Shelly Tutton of Edmonton; they have two girls and are living in Edmonton. Dale is married to Carvel Skaret and they have a boy and a girl and are living in Camrose. Brian married Paulette Hamann of Weyburn, Sask. and they have two boys and a girl and are living in Spruce View, west of Innisfail. Barbara married Roger Bunting of Stony Plain and they are living in Calgary. Janice married Robert Vergeer of Barrie, Ontario, and they are living in Innisfail.

Robert Rasmussen and Family

Robert Rasmussen, son of Rasmus and Kjersti Rasmussen, married Violet Ovelson of the Kingman district. They lived on a farm north of Dinant until 1937, when they moved back to the original Rasmussen farm, N.E. 17-48-20. Robert and Violet farmed until their passing in 1965.

Their family: R. Adair was born on April 2, 1927. He attended school at Dinant, Thronson and back to Dinant for Grade nine. He finished his high school in Camrose. He is married, has 2 married daughters and lives in Camrose. He is a Pipeline Contractor.

Donald was born on June 7, 1928. He also started school in Dinant and finished at Thronson. After his apprenticeship in Electricity and working as an Electrical Inspector, he decided to attend the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon. His ordination service was held at Scandia Lutheran Church, Armena. Donald is



Robert and Violet Rasmussen.

married and has 5 children. He is currently at Dickson, Alberta.

Gladys was born on May 26, 1930. She attended school at Dinant and Thronson. She married George Osness, son of Victor Osness who farmed in the Kingman district. Gladys and George farm south of Camrose and had four children. Their daughter lives near Oslo, Norway.

Gordon, born on January 30, 1931, attended school at Thronson, Armena and graduated from C.L.C. He is a Chartered Accountant and is President of the Strathcona Investment Ltd., and President of the Rasmussen Foundation. He is married and lives in Edmonton, and has 3 daughters.

Kathleen was born on November 12, 1932. She attended school at Thronson, Armena and C.L.C. She took nurses training at Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton, and is presently employed at the Smith Clinic, Camrose. Kathleen married Wilbur Thronson, youngest son of Theodore and Ida Thronson,



Birthday Club, December 4, 1942. Mrs. Dion Davidson, Mrs. John Erickson, Mrs. M. Jornlin, Mrs. Tony Broen, Mrs. Anton Thronson, Pauline Kringen, Petra Kringen, Mrs. Robert Rasmussen, Clara Kringen.

who farmed N.E. 20-48-20. Wilbur and Kathleen farmed until 1974, when they sold their farm to Don Wilson and moved to Camrose. Wilbur is employed at a local Lumber Yard. They have 2 children; Beverly who attended school at Armena and later Hay Lakes. She completed her schooling at Concordia College, Edmonton. She is married and lives in Edmonton and is employed as senior Co-ordinator Clerk for Alberta Power. Steven attended school in Armena, and graduated from the Camrose Composite High School. He is a second year apprentice in Sheet Metal Mechanics, and lives in Edmonton.

Viola, born January 6, 1934 attended school at Thronson, Armena, and graduated from C.L.C. She married Allan Thronson, son of Anton and Mary Thronson who farmed N.W. 21-48-20. They live in Camrose, where Viola is a secretary for the Camrose and District Support Services, and Allan is Vice-principal at the Chester Ronning School. They have 3 children.



Ruffina, Kenneth, Angela, Paul, Joanne Rasmussen.

The youngest, Kenneth, was born on December 30, 1944. He attended school at Armena and Camrose. He also attended C.L.B.I. where he met his wife. They have 3 children and live in Edmonton. Ken took over the farm, after the death of his parents, and farmed until 1972, when he sold to the Canfields, who later sold to Don Wilson. Ken then moved to Edmonton and went back to school, graduating from N.A.I.T. in Business Administration. He is currently president of Ken-Del Mortgage Ltd.

Carl and May Reichelt

After renting land in the Beaumont area for twenty-three years, Carl and May (Salome) Reichelt purchased the former John Erickson farm from Roy Forsen. This was in April 1962.

With good cultivation practices and favorable



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Reichelt (May).

weather conditions the land produced abundantly. Much of the grain was sold for seed. Cattle and pigs were raised which added to the income.

They recall 1968 as a set back when all their pigs died from fast erysipelas. It is thought that the disease is carried by magpies. Neighbors had lost several pigs from the same cause the previous year.

They expressed a feeling of great gratitude to an uncle who loaned them money to help pay the mortgage on the farm. This uncle refused to raise the interest charged, even though rates were going up — an agreement had been signed and that was it! It was with great satisfaction that they paid off the loan a few years later and received the deed to their farm. In 1965 they remodelled their home to make it completely modern and more spacious.

In May, 1974 May had the misfortune of getting her hand caught in the grain auger. This resulted in the loss of her right arm. With the help of neighbors she was rushed to the hospital. The roads were poor due to the spring break-up but neighbors quick action prevented her bleeding to death.

This event together with Carl's failing health prompted them in their decision to sell out in 1975.

In 1976 they moved to Camrose where they are enjoying their retirement.

George and Betty Roberts and Family by Betty Roberts

George Roberts was born in Peckham, London, England on October 14, 1933 to Mabel and George Roberts. He arrived in Canada in June 1946. Betty was born on the family farm in Hay Lakes area to Gus and Jessie Henschel on August 31, 1930. George and



George Roberts' family. Standing: Loryl, Chris, Hubert. Seated: Marc, Betty, George, Shery.

Betty were married in Camrose, Alberta, on March 8, 1955. We were both employed at Rosehaven at the time. We rented a suite until August, 1956 at which time we purchased a house at 5218-52 St.

Sheryl was born on August 11, 1956. Loryl was born November 7, 1958. We felt that when the girls reached school age they would attend Sparling School, which was just across the alley. While out for a drive one summer evening in 1960, we discussed an "acreage for sale" which we had seen in the paper. We drove into a farm yard to ask directions to the acreage and discovered this was the place! The owner, Mrs. Myrtle Wennerstrom, took us on a short tour of her home. We purchased it several weeks later. On August 31, 1960, we moved to our new home, Pt. S.W. 47-20-4, the former Iver Wennerstrom place. Myrtle Wennerstrom moved into our former home in Camrose.

Our son Marc was born in June 4, 1963. Our children attended Sifton School and Camrose Composite High School being picked up by the bus daily. What a switch from just crossing the alley!

The writer remembers many blizzards during that time. The phone would be busy ringing as worried parents would try to find out where the bus was. Several times the children had to stay in town as the bus couldn't get through on the roads. George also had some problem getting back and forth to work.

For some years the community had its telephone association and George was president for the last few years. Then the Alberta government installed buried cable. It was quite a change, not having the problems with the overhead lines. It also saved the shareholders a considerable sum of money, as the phone lines needed replacing.

Of course I have to mention the heavy snowfall of 1973-74 winter. It seemed every week we had a blizzard. The county had to use cats to open the roads. The piled snow on the sides of the road was higher than the truck. That spring no matter where you looked there was water. Some basements flooded. We helped Bob and Lee Wennerstrom move their cattle to higher ground. The neighbours gathered at Bob and Lee's place for what we called "the last supper". Everyone brought food and we had to wade through water to get to the house. George and the girls launched the boat in the ditch in front of our place and rowed over fences and fields to O. Broen's farm. Our fruit trees and berry bushes drowned out that time.

George went into the electrical trade that spring and works for a shop in Camrose. Sheryl and Lori played fast ball on the school and county teams for several years. They were majorettes with the county band for approximately eight years, then joined the band and played the drums. Marc played the bugle in the band. They travelled to many centers in Alberta and also to B.C. when the band went on tour during the summer. Marc played hockey in the county league from age seven to fourteen years, then joined Air Cadets. George played fastball and hockey in Camrose for quite a few years. I also played some ball, we played slow pitch.

We celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary on March 8, 1980. Our children, neighbours and families had a lovely surprise party for us at our home.

Sheryl joined the Airforce after graduating from high school. She is presently stationed in Chilliwack, B.C. Loryl married Hubert Lesties on August 28, 1976. They live in Mill Woods, Edmonton, where Hubert has a bodyshop. They have one son Christopher George Lesties born on February 12, 1979. After graduating from high school Marc went to work for Pan Arctic in the North. We have enjoyed living here. We are blessed with very good neighbors and friends and would like to take this opportunity to say thank you.

Family History of Mali and Bardo Rolseth

Bardo Rolseth was born in Selbu, Norway in 1872. At the age of 16 years he immigrated to Minnesota, U.S.A., where he lived with an Uncle and attended school. After 10 years he returned to reside in Norway for 2 years. Then he returned to Minnesota and was followed by his bride-to-be, Mali Baardsgaard. They were married in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1902 where their first three children were born.

Their first son passed away in infancy.

The next child was a daughter Hilda, Mrs. Paul



Bardo and Mali Rolseth, 1902 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Gotaas, who now lives in Camrose. Hilda and Paul have three children, Carl, Paul and Solveig.

The third child Olaf enlisted in the American Army in 1942 and after the war he returned to Armenia where he took over the family farm, and is now retired and living in Westaskiwin.

In 1908 Bardo and Mali, with their two small children, returned to Selbu, Norway. They resided on a beautiful farm for 19 years where they had eight more children.



Bardo and Mali Rolseth's 25 Anniversary.



Olaf, Paul, Torbjorn, Marvin Rolseth in Norway.

Ida, Mrs. Bill Bright, now living in Vancouver, B.C. had two children, Luella and Ronald.

Thora resided in Armena and Camrose and passed away in Edmonton in 1964.

Hannah attended the Busk school for a short time and later was employed in Edmonton and Calgary. She passed away in 1955.

Harold was a well-known school teacher in the Camrose area. He married Barbara Jones of New Norway and they had three sons Brian, Marvin and Harold Jr. Harold passed away at an early age in 1960.

Marvin the next son attended school in Armena and Camrose. He was nineteen years old when he drowned in the Battle River near Duhamel in 1936.

Torbjorn worked in newspaper offices in Camrose and Edmonton before moving to Van-



Front, L. to R.: Ida and daughter Luella, Mrs. Rolseth. Back, L. to R.: Hilda, Hannah and Thora.

couver. He was employed at Shaughnessy Hospital until his retirement.

Paul, the youngest of the family joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942 as a Radar technician and after serving overseas he worked in U.S.A. and Canada in electronics. Paul married Jean Stewart of Duhamel and they have two children, Colin and Lynda.

In 1927 Bardo and Mali Rolseth immigrated to Canada bringing with them their nine children. They were met at the C.P.R. station by Ivor Christenson the Norwegian Consul and spent the first two nights in the Heather Brae Hotel in Camrose. The family lived in Camrose for about 4 months before they moved onto their farm at Armena.

The Armena district holds happy memories and a few sad ones for us all.

The ball games were one of the highlights in entertainment, and the picnics, where we were given 10¢ to spend on ice cream, chocolate bars or lemon ade.

Scandia church was the centre of our community and four miles from home. We tried to attend Sunday School and services whether we had to walk, ride our bikes or ride horse back.

When we moved onto our farm there was a good crop on it, but that year we had a bad hail storm and everything was lost. Then other years we had frost or drought. We can all remember the depression, our parents trying so hard to provide us with the things we wanted.

The good friends and kind neighbors of the Armena district will always be remembered.

Bardo Rolseth passed away in April 1944 and Mali in June 1953.

Harold Rolseth Family

by Barbara Rolseth

In 1943, Harold Rolseth and Barbara Jones were married at New Norway. We moved to Brandland where Harold taught school for the one year we lived there. We then moved to Armena where he taught school from 1944 to 1948. In 1948, we moved to the Rosalind district where Harold taught school until the time of his passing in July, 1960.



Harold Rolseth.

We have a family of three boys. Brian, born in 1946, lives in Edmonton and is employed by the Department of Antomology at the University of Alberta. He married Anemone Ruder of Edmonton and they have one son, Casey. Marvin, born in 1948, lives in the Calmar district where he is a welder. He married Donna Thronson and they have two children, Kevin and Tanya. Harold, born in 1954, lives in Edmonton and works for Bar K Trucking. He married Juanita Vosburgh of Edmonton.

Since all my family is married, I have taken up residence in Camrose. The past eight years I have been employed at Stoney Creek Lodge, which I enjoy very much.

Jens and Anna Ronning



Jens and Anna Ronning, section foreman in Armena.

The Ole and Agnes Rosendahl Story by Lois (Rosendahl) Brewer

Ole Rosendahl's father, Halle Rosendahl, born in 1846, married Karin Louise Halbastad in Norway. The parents with their two oldest children, daughter Anne and son Albert, left Trondheim, Norway and immigrated to Minnesota, U.S.A. in the 1870's.

Here, three more children were born. Ole was born in 1884 in Alexandria, Minnesota. Emma was born in 1886 in Brandon, Minnesota and Carrie was born in 1888 in Brandon also.

The Rosendahl family came to the area north of Camrose, Alberta in 1902 and settled on the SW ¼ Section 34-47-20 W4. Halle Rosendahl passed away in April 1907. Ole and his nephew, Henry Rosendahl farmed the land for a number of years, until his enlistment in World War I.

Agnes (Lund) Rosendahl was born in Alexandria, South Dakota in 1896. She came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Lund in 1902 and settled in the Hay Lakes area of Alberta.

In 1914 Ole Rosendahl and Agnes Lund were married. Ole bought C.P.R. land in 1915 located on NW¼ Section 16-47-20-W4. They had four daughters.

Ole was keenly interested in community affairs. For thirteen years he served as Councillor for the Municipality of Lloyd George. He was involved with



Ole and Agnes Rosendahl, December 2, 1914.

the Camrose North Mutual Telephone Company for a number of years. Agnes was an active member of the Baldenstein Welfare Worker and the Lutheran Ladies Aid. The last few years of her life she was handicapped by failing eyesight. In spite of this misfortune she prepared meals and maintained her home, and even had a hobby of crocheting. A doily she made was entered in the Toronto Exposition several years ago, and won first prize in the "Handiwork for the blind" For a pastime she enjoyed listening to Cassette tapes sent to her by the Edmonton Branch of C.N.I.B.

The daughters and their families follow:

Myrtle was born on October 19, 1915. She attended school in Camrose, finishing Grade Twelve when she was only fifteen years of age. After taking a Business Course at the McTavish Business College she worked in Edmonton. Her untimely passing occurred in April 1933 at the age of eighteen years.

Berna was born April 8, 1918 and attended school



Ole and Agnes Rosendahl farmstead.

in Dinant and Camrose. She married George McKenzie December 2, 1934. They were later divorced. After marrying Fred Whitcomb they farmed in the Dinant district for several years. In 1944 Berna went to work in Camrose, at the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool, Better Valu Store, Lawrence's and the Camrose Canadian. She was a part-time office worker at Messiah Lutheran Church for a number of years. Her death occurred on November 23, 1968.

Almira was born November 18, 1919 and attended the schools of Baldenstein and Camrose. She married Victor Mills on July 10, 1940. He was born on November 1, 1913, worked as a machinist at Toppinton. Almira worked at White Stag as a cutter until 1977. Their marriage ended in 1971.

Their family as follows:

Larry born June 9, 1942 is an Electrical Engineer at Alberta Government Telephones. He was married to Janet Goodman on April 25, 1970. She works as Administration Officer at the Toronto Dominion Bank. There are two children; Marnie Lisa, born December 30, 1974 and Shawn Alan, born February 1, 1978.

Teresa was born July 9, 1946. She is a Pharmacist at the Stony Plain Drug. On July 17, 1967 she was married to Al Wayne Howard. His occupation is as Consulting Psychologist, Film Producer, Musician, and Composer. They have two children; Kerry Deleyne born January 12, 1969 and Shane Wesley James born February 12, 1976.

Janet Laura was born on January 13, 1950. She has her Master of Education degree and owns Nickle Bronze Company. She married Richard Wayne Forest on June 22, 1974. He is a contractor at Forest Construction. They have two children; Nicole Danielle, born July 4, 1979 and Michael James, born July 1, 1981.

Kevin was born January 6, 1959. He works as a C.N.R. switchman.

Farley was born on June 28, 1961. He is a car man at the C.N.R.

Shelly Joy was born October 6, 1963 and is presently attending N.A.I.T. in Telecommunications.

In 1975 Almira married John Heather. He was a trainman for the C.N.R. for thirty-five years and retired in 1977.

Lois was born August 22, 1930 and went to school at Baldenstein and Camrose. She was married in 1954 to Edward Brewer, who is a Service Station Operator. They have one son, Edward Allen born on March 16, 1955. He works at Harberg Electric as an Electrician. He married Doreen Flore on July 5, 1975. They have one son, Shane Allen, born on March 15, 1977.

Ole and Agnes Rosendahl celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in December 1964. He passed away in June 1965 at the age of eighty-one years. He farmed until six months before his death. Agnes moved to Camrose and lived there until her passing in June 1977.

Eileen (Mickelson) Rosland

I was born April 23, 1929, the daughter of John and Tillie Mickelson. I went to Thronson school. I took grades one through eight there and then went to Dinant school.

After I was out of school I worked in Camrose. On June 30, 1948 I married Ole Rosland, son of



Wedding day, May 10, 1916. John and Tillie Mickelson. Best man — Otto Anderson, Bridesmaid — Clara Mickelson.

Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Anderson
requests the honor of your presence at the marriage
of their daughter
Bertha Mathilda
to
Mr. Erick J. Mickelson
on Wednesday afternoon, May the tenth
nineteen hundred and sixteen
at three o'clock at their residence
Dinant, Alberta, Canada

Wedding Invitation.



Robert, Eileen, John and Tillie Mickelson.

Gabriel and Johanna Rosland. Ole was in partnership with his brother in the Camrose Meat Market so we made our home in Camrose. We have two sons and a daughter; Blaine, Robert and Kathy.

Blaine was born August 4, 1954. He married Brenda Simonson, daughter of Gordon and Ruth Simonson of Kingman. Blaine and Brenda live on the farm. They have one son Shane, born on November 19, 1980.

Robert was born May 8, 1957. He works for S&T Drilling (Northern) Ltd.

Kathy was born October 1, 1959. She works with her father at the Camrose Meat Market.

Christian and Susanna (Batty) Roth written by Eleanor Stark

Christian Roth was born August 1, 1857. He married Sarah Susanna Batty born on December 28, 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Roth and a family of four children emigrated from Drake, North Dakota in 1901. Chris Roth homesteaded on NW¼-18-47-20-W4 near Camrose, Alberta. This area was known as North West Territories at that time. More children were added to the family which is given below:

Hester Rosanna (Weisser) (Brown)	October 24, 1884
Robert Christ	August 18, 1886
John William	September 10, 1888
Henry Alonzo	March 21, 1890
Samuel Levi	November 28, 1893
Truman Walter	November 3, 1895
Caroline Susan (Stark)	August 29, 1897
Charlie Alfred	January 31, 1899
Albert Edward	January 4, 1902
George Emanuel	March 17, 1904
(twins)	
Minnie Ethel (Cole)	March 17, 1904
Emma Katherine (Atkinson)	October 2, 1905
Adolph Theodore	March 2, 1908

There are four family members still living:

Henry Roth — Vancouver, B.C.
Caroline Stark — Camrose, Alberta
Charlie Roth — Victoria, B.C.
Minnie Cole — Burnaby, B.C.

Homesteading times were often filled with fears of fire. Small log huts with sod roofs were insulated against the cold by covering the mud walls and ceil-



Christian and Sarah Roth.

ing with heavy building paper and newspapers. The paper easily ignited. Christian and Susan's home was such a hut.

One wintery morning their many children were huddling under their blankets on the numerous bunk beds along the walls. Father Roth arose early and stoked up the pot-bellied stove in the middle of the room, thinking to warm up the house before the family had to get up. Being earlier than usual he decided to lie down for a few minutes more. The next time he opened his eyes, stockings and shoes around the stove were on fire and flames were racing up the wall. Caroline on the top bunk recalls seeing flames



Chris Roth family.



Nine sons of the Roth family.

swishing over her bed as she awakened. A few minutes later the entire family in their night clothes shivered in the wintery morning as they watched their father climb onto the sod roof to battle the flames. They lost many of their meager possessions. But community spirit being what it was, every one soon had shoes, stockings and needed clothing and bedding.

The open land of the prairie around the homestead with its long grass and little cultivation was fertile area for bush fires during electrical storms. Two of the boys, Truman and Sam, were in the process of battling just such a fire when the wind changed and they had to run for their lives. The only reasonably safe place seemed to be the nearby slough and they plunged in. Hours later when the flames had passed by, they were able to be rescued from the water. Mother Roth spent hours pacing the floor as she feared for their recovery as she nursed them back to health from "brain fever".

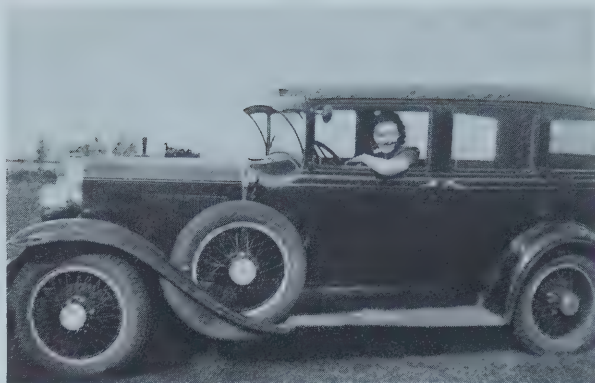
Christian Roth was a member of the first school board of the Baldenstein School. The six youngest of the Roth children attended this school.

Sarah Susanna Roth passed away on November 22, 1919, and Christian Roth on December 11, 1927.

Caroline Roth married Ernest Stark and they resided on a farm five miles west of Camrose. Their daughter Eleanor became a nurse and has spent a number of years in missionary service (1955 to 1976) as a nurse in India. She is presently living with her mother in Camrose, and is on staff at Rosehaven. Another daughter of Caroline's lives in Australia, with her family, which includes a pair of twins. Caroline's brother George and sister Minnie Cole are also twins.

Lloyd and Minnie Rudd

Lloyd Rudd, with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thorvald Rudd, moved from Ruder, North Dakota to



Lloyd Rudd's Graham Paige, 1935.

Cereal, Alberta in 1917 at the age of two years. They farmed in that area until 1923, and then moved to the Beaver Lake district, north of Ryley.

In 1925 they moved to Frank Mohler's farm east of Round Hill where they farmed for five years. They then quit farming and operated a waffle shop, also the Victoria Cafe in Camrose during 1930.

Lloyd was employed at Connor's Bakery for a time and also at Lawrence's store. He also delivered groceries. He was employed as a steam engineer hoisting coal at the Dodds Coal Mine, also at Evansburg for the Stewart Pembina Coal Co. Later he operated a steam engine at the Mosstex plant at Winterburn.



Lloyd Rudd's Reeves steamer.

In 1940 Lloyd rented Mrs. John Larson's farm south of Camrose in the Sifton district. He broke and farmed this land for six years.

Lloyd was married in 1943 to Minnie Mathison, whose parents came as pioneers to the Round Hill District in 1903. Minnie was born in 1916.

In 1946 Lloyd and Minnie purchased a quarter section of land from Mrs. Rushton of Camrose (SE¼-19-47-20 W4).



Lloyd Rudd's Mogul, 1912-1913.

The first year was spent clearing and breaking some land and building a small house. A son, Wayne, was born that same year.

When the Rosehaven Institution was opened in the fall of 1947, Lloyd was employed, first as a pipe fitter, then as a shift engineer.

Lloyd and Minnie purchased a house in Camrose where they lived for eight years. During this time another son, Dale, and a daughter Vivian were born.

In 1955 they sold their house in town and returned to the farm. Lloyd continued working at Rosehaven until his retirement in 1972.

At present Vivian and Wayne are employed in Calgary, and Dale in Camrose.

Gordon and Eileen Rud

In the spring of 1945, Mens Rud, of New Norway, purchased from John Gordeyko a half section of land one-half mile west of the Armena corner. Gordon and Eileen moved there, to farm, in the summer of 1945. The road into the building site was just a trail, and the small house, cattle shed, pumphouse, and windmill were yet to be erected. The buildings and windmill are still standing.

The following year 1946, they purchased the Armena General Store from John and Mabel Walker. This little business included being Postmaster for the area. Mail came in every day and the train from the north had to be met Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. The train from the south was met Tuesday and Thursday evenings. B. A. Bulk Supplies as well as a gas pump in front of the store kept everyone busy. The payroll from two elevators was kept in the store safe at that time as well. Living quarters were in the back of the store.

It was a very interesting life, but Gordon was a farmer at heart. In the spring of 1947, after selling the business to Vernon Lyseng and Raymond Skaret, they moved to a farm west of New Norway where they still farm.

Selmer and Clara Rude

Selmer Rude was born at Gary, Minnesota in 1892; the son of Anton and Sophie Rude. His wife, Clara was born in 1896, the daughter of Alfred and Clara Swan of Zumbrota, Minnesota. During World War I Selmer served in the American Army (Artillery) and was stationed overseas in England and France. Clara was a graduate of the Agricultural School at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Selmer and Clara were married June 22, 1921. They farmed near Zumbrota for three years. Selmer felt led to enter the ministry so they moved to St. Paul where he took his training at Lutheran Bible Institute and Luther Seminary. After his ordination he worked with the Jewish Mission in North Minneapolis and guided the establishing of the Lakeview Congregation and building of Lakeview Church in North St. Paul.

Pastor and Mrs. Rude and family, Stanley, Milton, Viola and Alvin came to Canada in 1940. They served the congregations of Scandia, Bethlehem and St. Joseph, making their home in Armena. They also served Parishes at Lake Alma, Saskatchewan and Edberg, Alberta.



Stanley, Viola, Milton, Rev. Selmer, Alvin, Clara Rude.

Pastor Rude in his book "Life Experiences" recounted life in Armena as follows:

"Three congregations north of Camrose had just formed a new Parish. They had been served by Rev. Solheim of Camrose. As I was doing evangelistic preaching and not called to a specific charge, the Armena parish extended a call to serve them as their pastor. This was accepted and I was installed by Rev. Iverson, the District President, December 19, 1939.

Except for a couple of months during the winter, when I was back home, I lived with a family in Armena. When I returned in March 1940 I found the

snow season had set in and dumped a lot of snow on the country. Once I played out stomping through the snow, about two miles and had to find a resting place. The Skarets were away for the evening, and I entered the house, laid down on the sofa and fell asleep. You should have heard the surprised voices when they came home and found their new pastor asleep instead of being at Bible study. (A poor way to start the new ministry.) But that also happened once enroute to St. Joseph. I came from Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose and had no time to eat in order to catch the noon train to Hay Lakes. I got there about 1:00 p.m. and started to walk to church about four miles away in wet snow. My strength gave out and after struggling to a farm place (Huebner's, I believe). They prepared dinner for me. I must have devoured close to half a dozen eggs and lots of bacon. My, it tasted good! Then this farmer hitched up a team and gave me a fine ride the remainder of the way.

That spring I used Martin Hendrickson's swift buckskin bronc for roaming the country, visiting. Once that spring, and there was lots of water, I had to cross a washout east of Bethlehem. It was about four feet wide, and I know not how deep, but she dashed across it. That evening I had "rommegrot" at Millangs. Mrs. Millang apologised that was all they were having for supper. What better a treat could even a king have? Harold Scotvold's was my destination another evening. When I saw him coming from chores I stopped and talked awhile, being all wet from a drizzling sleet. He hesitated in allowing me a stopping place, suspecting I was some kind of tramp. Recognizing me, it was not long before the bronco was well housed and I was ushered into the spacious house in great style. Wilma offered all the comforts needed.

Home prayer meetings and Bible studies were well attended. They helped create more spiritual life and some came out for the Lord in a definite way. Every age group was active in some way in the church. An added enjoyment those years was to teach two days a week at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute. Of course, the greatest joy was to see souls saved. That was always the purpose of Christian witnessing.

There was also some excitement. When Emily Lyseng was married, they had a tent for reception purposes. We were just beginning a feast when all of a sudden a gust of wind came and tore the tent off its moorings. We had to hold it up to prevent disaster to our fine meal. At another wedding we used horses for travel for there was lots of snow. The triple bob sled box was well trimmed with streamers etc. All of a

sudden a wind came up and the streamers floated about the team. That scared them so they almost ran away. A good thing they were brought under control for it would have been a scramble of finely dressed people.

In the wet spring of 1941 and no frost about the parsonage basement the south wall fell in. Concrete, water, potatoes and apples all over, about two feet deep.

There are still many good friends in this parish. Of course many have passed on by now! But ties were formed which never broke. For this the Lord's name be praised."

Other recollections of Armena life: a horse named Birdie, faithful at pulling cutter, for riding and pulling us skiing; a good milk cow; Stan hauling coal from Dinant, by sleigh, all day and often overnight; Viola cleaning the school; Milton and Stan working for farmers; Stan to Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute and then the Army; Milton and Viola to Camrose Lutheran College; no electricity; 1935 Ford 2-door; Practice dogfights over town by Harvards and Tiger-moths; Dad's enjoyment working with the farmers, skating on sloughs and creeks — and Alvin falling through; Dad commenting on the black soil, and Dad and Mom enjoying gardening and flowers.

Pastor and Mrs. Rude retired to Camrose from Edberg parish in 1959. Selmer spent some years leading Bible studies and serving as supply pastor in vacant parishes. They also enjoyed working in their own home and garden. Selmer's pastime was reading and writing, while Clara's was crocheting and embroidery. In her last years Clara suffered blindness. But even through that she remained cheerful, trusting in the Lord's goodness. She passed away in Camrose March 14, 1968. Selmer moved to Bethany Home a few years later. He remained active as a volunteer, leading Bible studies visiting and writing until the spring of 1981. After a short illness he passed away on June 10, 1981.

Stanley attended Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, his schooling was interrupted by one year working on a cattle ranch and one year in the Canadian army. He attended Outlook College and then studied for the ministry at the University and Seminary in Saskatoon. After ordination he has served parishes in the three western provinces, presently being at Rhine, Saskatchewan.

Milton attended Outlook College, University and Seminary and was ordained together with Stanley. While still in Seminary he was pastoring the church at Langham, Saskatchewan. He married Gladys Wig from Eastend, Saskatchewan and they moved to Grande Prairie, Alberta. They are presently at Medicine Hat, Alberta. They have four children: Marlys

married to Len Sorenson of Viking, they both teach in Camrose. Brian is intern Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran in Calgary, Gail is at home attending Medicine Hat College and Laverne is at home taking Grade X.

Viola moved back to the United States and became a teacher. She married Desmond Lien and they have two daughters and a son David. They live at Red Wing, Minnesota where Desmond is a County Mechanic. Viola operates a pre-kindergarten school in her home and is active in the church and young people's work. Janelyn is married to Phil Navarro and they have a son Philip. Brenda is married to Dave Moskal and they have a son Joel.

Alvin married Alice Johnson from Donalda. They farm in that district. Their children are Kenneth who married Valerie Schlamb and live at Chilliwack, British Columbia. Rodney married Joy Ashton, they have a son Sean and live in Camrose. Curtis married Dorothy Colin and live in Camrose. Diane also lives in Camrose. Dennis is attending Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute and Carol Lutheran College and Bible Institute, Outlook, Saskatchewan.

Rushfeldt Family

Rawleigh Rushfeldt was raised on a farm at Cochrane, Alberta. He married Betty Goertz, an Edmontonian, in the fall of 1964. They made many moves before settling in the Armena district with their three children: Jean, Rawleigh John, and Tracy.

They purchased the quarter from Nels Grue in 1973.

Mary R. Hendrickson Rustand

Mary Randine Hendrickson born 1890 at Clinton, Minnesota, immigrated to Canada with her family in 1901. She is a teacher and a poetess. She attended school at Thordenskjold, and at Bethania High School at Everett, Washington, U.S.A. She was one of the first students to attend Camrose Lutheran College and also attended Bible School at Wapeton, North Dakota. She taught public school at Roros, Alberta, and parochial school in several Lutheran Congregations.

In 1973 she published a book of her own poems called "Treasures". Then in 1977 a second edition was published with more poems added. Her book of poems is found in several places across Canada, in Libraries, Universities and Colleges, including C.L.C. It is also in other countries including England, Norway, U.S.A. and Spain. In 1980 at the age of ninety, she wrote a poem for Alberta's 75 Jubilee, Entitled "Alberta", which was placed in the Alberta Provincial Museum, and Heritage Magazine. Mary

has through the years written many poems for special occasions such as family reunions, special family anniversaries etc.

Mary was a president for the Scandia Young People's Society, and was a board member at the time the first Constitution for the Luther League was prepared.

In 1922 Mary married Hellik H. Rustand, a mechanic, and they moved to Wainwright, Alberta, where Hellik worked. Their four children were born there, George, Robert, James and Irene.

George was born in 1923, died in 1934 and was buried in the Scandia Cemetery. Robert, born in 1924, never married and is a city employee at Prince George, B.C. James, born in 1930 is an aeroplane mechanic for the Federal Government at the International Airport, Leduc. He married Edith Baily and has three children James, Crystal and Kenneth. James married Agnes Balsie. Irene was born in 1932 and married Norman Shinimon. They lived in Toronto for many years where their two boys were born Norman Albert and George Hellick. George married Sharon Nelson in 1974 and they have a son David Norman born in 1980. Irene's second marriage was to Bill Salisbury. They live on an acreage south of Tofield and Mary lives near them in her own trailer. Irene worked in the bank and in real estate. Bill is a plumber and gas fitter at Tofield.

The Ben Sallee Family

by Ivy Sallee

We left the southern Okanogan region of Osoyoos, B.C. and came to Camrose, Alberta in August 1949. Our original purpose was to look for a sheep ranch. My aunt lived here so we stayed with them while we looked for farms for sale. We found a nice farm east of Camrose; the farmer had recently died and the place was for sale. We kept looking, however, as we wanted to get settled before school started. We finally found one for sale northwest of Camrose owned by Robert Schroeder, which we bought. Ben helped him with his threshing and fall work until time for their sale. In the meantime we lived in their garage.

Our neighbors, Bob and Donald Waterston, did our threshing for us for a few years. Then came the change to combines. This did away with the men and teams and was a very exciting and busy time. It was "hurry, hurry, hurry," to be finished before winter came.

Our family consisted of three girls. Violet entered school in Camrose. She had one of the first motor bikes in this area, and our plan was for her to ride the six and one-half miles to and from school, but after she had two or three scary spills she ended

up rooming in Camrose with Lorna Kubbernus. She later married Stewart Smith of the East Bittern Lake District.

Betty went to school at Baldenstein. She married our neighbor's son, Donald Waterston, in June 1944. When they were courting they had a path through the bush they called the "Bunny Trail" which they used quite often. The day before their wedding we had the misfortune of losing our garage by fire. We had an oil brooder heater set up for chickens in the garage so I had started it to keep a litter of young pigs warm. I went back to the house to make a phone call, an appointment for Betty to have her hair done at the hairdresser. When I looked out the garage was in flames. It was lined with paper and was burning very quickly. We did manage to save all the little pigs and the chickens hurried out by themselves. That was the end of the garage and the motor bike!

Sherry, our youngest, was born in 1954 and went by bus to the Sifton School in Camrose. She lives in Camrose where she is employed at the Crystal Springs Hotel.

One of the first oil wells in that part of the country was drilled on our farm in 1951. Altogether four wells were drilled. I remember how exciting it was when the first one "blew in".

Ben was always a hard worker, never taking any time off, and continued farming until the age of seventy-five. We moved to Camrose in 1970, and sold our farm to Donald Smith in 1974.

Our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary was celebrated while still living on the farm, and our fiftieth anniversary in 1980 in Camrose.

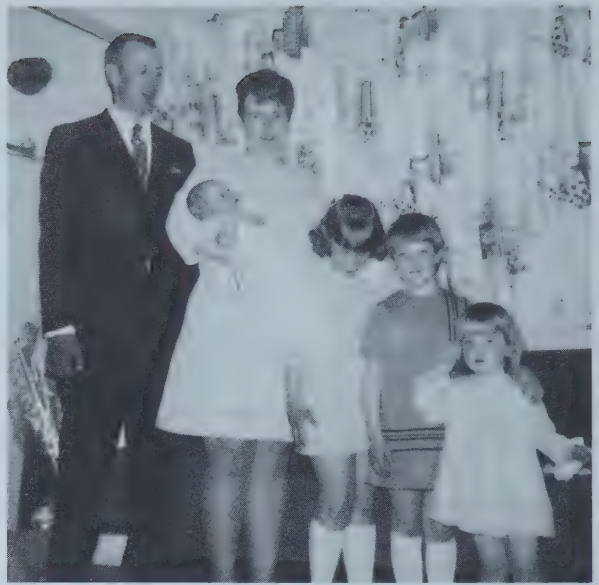
We have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Don and Letha (Olson) Saltvold

Don the eldest son of Gullik and Lil Saltvold born April 11, 1938, spent most of his younger years in the Meeting Creek-Edberg area. Upon finishing school he was employed at Crescent Spur, British Columbia and Camrose. Later he attended the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute for two years in Camrose.

In May 1962 Don Saltvold and Letha Olson were married at Trondhjem Lutheran Church in Round Hill. Her parents Juluis and Iva Olson farmed in different places, buying and settling three miles north of Round Hill. Letha was their fourth daughter. She took her schooling at Grand Forks, Anderson, and Round Hill, schools. While attending the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose for two years she met Don Saltvold. Twelve days after graduation they were married.

They lived in Camrose for a short time. Later they moved to the Oscar Jasman farm in the Armena



Saltvolds, 1970. Don, Letha, Donavon, Deanna, Lois and Teresa.

District. They lived there for a year and a half. Deanna Lynn arrived January 16, 1963. She was the first grandchild on both sides. In the spring of 1964, they moved one half mile north, to an acreage owned by Chester Olson, Letha's uncle. They bought his land later.

August 21, 1964 Lois Elaine arrived, a sister for Deanna. They rented a quarter of land from Letha's uncle, Anton Olson. Don worked at Rosehaven and farmed too. Deanna and Lois attended Scandia Sunday School and Armena School.

On September 25, 1967 their third, sweet daughter arrived, Teresa Faye. Teresa loves animals, especially cats. On Easter Sunday morning March 29, 1970 a son weighing 11 pounds and 2 ounces, Donavon Dale, arrived to bless their home, a brother for Deanna, Lois and Teresa.

In the spring of 1971, the Saltvolds moved to the Donalds area. They purchased the Gault quarter and rented the Gordon Steinhoff land. They purchased Gordon's land in 1973. Their house of worship is Bethany Lutheran.

Deanna, finished Grade XII with honors, and is now attending the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose. Lois and Teresa are going to Edberg taking grades XII and IX respectively. Donovan attends Meeting Creek taking grade VI.

The years they lived in the Armena area will always be a treasured memory.

The Dan Schielke Family by Allan and Marie Schielke

Dan and Paulina Schielke and their nine children



Dan Schielke family. Back Row: Elmer, Allen, Arnold, Ernie, Isabel, Edgar, Oscar. Front Row: Florence, Dan, Paulina, Esther.

came to the Camrose area in the spring of 1937 feeling that they could no longer withstand the hardships of the dry-belt area in the "dirty-thirties". All nine children were born at Sibbald, Alta. where Dan had taken up homesteading around 1909.

In the fall of 1936 Ernie and Edgar Schielke arrived in Camrose via Canadian National Railway bringing the cattle and some machinery with them. In the spring of 1937 Dan and the rest of the family arrived and were able to rent the Murphy farm north of Ohaton. (The present Orvil McClure farm.) In the spring of 1942 Dan had the opportunity to rent a section of land four miles north of Camrose, known as the Loveseth farm. The family fitted into this area well and were happy and prospered. Then, in the fall of 1943 Mr. Loveseth told the Schielke's he would like to sell them the farm but Dan said he would prefer to stay on as a renter. However, the next spring the farm was sold and the Schielke family must move again! So it was that in 1944 the Schielkes purchased the Gabourie farm west of Duhamel and this has been "home" ever since.



Time out for coffee at Dan Schielke's in 1942.



Why won't it go?

Oscar, who is the eldest of the family, was born in March of 1915. In 1942 he began working for the Alberta Wheat Pool and stayed with the company until his formal retirement in April of 1980. Oscar married the former Muriel Abelson of Metiskow, Alberta and they had a family of three children. Muriel passed away in May of 1978 but Oscar still maintains their home in Ohaton. The children, Garry, Judy and Dan are all married and have families of their own.

Ernie was born in March of 1916 and he married Louise Weiss of East Bittern Lake. They have two children, Larry and Coral, who are also married and have their own families. Ernie had also been employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool in the early 1940's. He and Louise owned the store in Ohaton for 16 years before moving to Salmon Arm, B.C. where they now enjoy retirement.

Edgar arrived on the scene in September of 1917. When the family moved from the homestead at Sibbald to Ohaton in 1937 Edgar made the move with them and he also accompanied the family's move to the farm north of Camrose in 1942 and later to the farm they purchased in Duhamel in 1944. In the years 1937 and 1938 Edgar was employed by Albert Olson and Alvin Farness, and in 1940 by Ben Ohlson. During 1939, 1941 and 1942 he worked for his Uncle Emil who farmed in the Carstairs area. Since the move to Duhamel in 1944 Edgar has remained on the home farm, where he and his brother Allan have worked a joint operation. In 1973 he married the former Verna Sawers and they still maintain their home at Duhamel.

Arnold was born June 3, 1919 and took his public schooling in the Blairgowrie school, where all the other Schielke children attended school, except Isabel. Following their move to the Camrose district Arnold finished his High School at the Camrose Lutheran College and also took a business course which fitted him well for the office work he did with the Provincial Government in the Attorney General's Department for some thirty years. He married Betty

Baker in 1974 but their marriage was to be short lived as Arnold became ill and passed away suddenly on December 6, 1976.

Allan, who is son number five, was born on July 19, 1921. It was from the Loveseth farm that Allan made his departure for Overseas in 1943. He fondly remembers the farewell party held for him, at which time he was presented with a purse of money. With this gift of money he purchased an Elco wrist watch which he still wears today and it has only had one trip to the jewellers. Following his return from overseas Allan lived with his family on the farm at Duhamel. In December of 1949 Allan married Marie Stewart, a local Duhamel girl. They made their home on the Russell Stewart farm until they purchased the Charlie Stewart farm in 1953 and this is still "home" today. They have a family of three, Ronald, Kevin and Joan, all living in the Duhamel district.

Florence, born January 30, 1923, was the first girl born in the Schielke household! She attended school at Hampton and assisted in several neighboring residences until being employed by Canada Safeway Limited. She worked first in Camrose and was then transferred to Edmonton. She married Kenneth Gardner in 1947. She and her husband now own Greene Shoes of Medicine Hat, where they have made their home for several years. They have a family of one son, Brian, and a daughter Joy, both of whom are married.

Esther was born on November 10, 1924. She too attended school in the Ohaton district and by 1942 was employed as a cashier with the Canada Safeway in Camrose. In 1946 Esther married Ernest Black. Ernest operated the General Store in Duhamel for a few years before moving back to Camrose where he managed Motor Car Supply for several years. He was transferred to Vernon, B.C. where they have built a lovely home and have resided since 1969. Their family consists of three married daughters, Wendy, Lorraine and Gail-Ann. Ernest is now employed by D. and I Automotive and Esther has been with Simpson-Sears for a number of years. They have enjoyed their move to Vernon and find it a beautiful place to live.

Elmer, they youngest son of the Dan Schielke family, was born on August 4, 1927. He began school at Sibbald and took the remainder at Ohaton (Hampton S.D.) and Camrose. In November of 1949 he married the former Mildred Flemming of Kingman, Alta. They have one son, Claire, and a daughter Lloy. Elmer has always been an ardent hunter and excelled in sports. He worked as Partsman in the firm of Schnell and Barrie in Camrose for many years before taking up the International Harvester dealership in Provost in 1958. He has served in many capacities with the Alberta Baseball Association and

received a Coach of the Year award for his outstanding work with baseball in Alberta. In 1974 he successfully organized and hosted the Western Canada Junior Baseball Finals in Provost.

Isabel is the youngest member of the Dan Schielke family and was born December 23, 1933. Her schooling began at Hampton, east of Camrose, and then at Baldenstein, north of Camrose. It is here that she recalls riding double on horseback, to school, with Lois Rosendahl. She finished High School in New Norway and was then employed by Canada Safeway in Camrose. She also served as receptionist at the Smith Clinic for several years. In August of 1954 she married Bunny Ehlert and they operated Camrose Oilfield Service for a period of twelve years. They also farmed south of Camrose and at Duhamel for a period of time and then following sale of their land, moved to Calgary where Bunny is successfully employed with Guaranty Trust. They have three children, Bruce, Pam and Dana, all living in Calgary.

The years spent at the "Loveseth farm" were happy years, as the Schielke family recall. Although some of the older members of the family were working away from home they spent many happy and memorable week-ends and other occasions at the farm.

This move was an especially enjoyable one for Mrs. Schielke, who for the first time, had a lovely large home which was suitable for the size of their family. It was a sad day several years later when the Schielkes learned that this house had been destroyed by fire.

Many neighborly get togethers were had at the Schielke home and the Schielkes were always pleased to visit with their new found friends. A good ball diamond was situated below the barn and this was the scene of lots of action. There were usually two ball games a week. There was also a large slough which brought endless enjoyment to the Schielke family as well as the neighbors. Lots of good hockey in those days! Isabel also remembers Oscar using his car to pull the toboggans around the ice, supplying lots of thrills for the kids.

Going to card parties at Baldenstein school via team and sleigh was always lots of fun. Sometimes, dancing followed the card parties with the music being supplied by Mr. and Mrs. McWhirter. One of the most memorable occasion that Elmer and Isabel recall was seeing the soldiers from the Camrose Training Centre marching out to their four mile corner on route marches. On one occasion Mr. Schielke had about thirty soldiers come out from Camrose to stook 320 acres of oats. The men began stooking at approximately 9:30 a.m. Saturday and by 2:00

o'clock Sunday afternoon the entire field was standing!

Carrie Hendrickson Scotvold

Carrie Hendrickson was born in U.S.A. in 1887 and came to Canada with her parents in 1901. She also attended Bethania College in Everett, Washington. In Camrose, she worked in the home of Dr. G. G. Stewart. In 1907 she married Enoch Scotvold of Camrose, an assistant to Albert Sanders, a Druggist. Later Scotvold and A. Alackson formed "The Scandinavian Land Co." The Scotvold family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1922 where Enoch became a travelling Evangelist for the Lutheran Church, and he spent his life at this work. Four children were born to them. Evangeline died in infancy. Everald, the only boy was born in 1909, married Ruth Ness, and they have three children. A son, Everald Jr. and two daughters (twins) Joanne and Joyce. These three were famous skaters and all are gold medal holders.

Carrie and Enoch's daughter Margrete, born in 1912, is an R.N., married Robert Walker and lives at the Gold Rock Ranch in southern California.

In 1915 Kathrine was born. She is an R.N. married Lawrence Moe, and lives at Lakeside, California.

nia. He is a building constructor. Their son Larry, was killed in an accident. Their daughter Kathy was born in 1944.

K. H. Seem Family

written by Elmer Olson

K. H. Seem, with his wife and family of two sons and one daughter, arrived in the Baldenstein District from Minnesota, U.S.A. In 1917, he bought the NE ¼ of section 26-47-20 W4 from Nels Monson. Included with the settler's effects was a quantity of fine oak lumber. Their house was constructed of this material, making a very unique building. After farming for a couple of years, they returned to Fergus Falls, Minnesota. John Olson rented the land in 1919.

W. W. Treleaven occupied the farm in 1922, and their children attended the Baldenstein School. Sometime after 1924 Olaf Olsonberg acquired the land. The house was moved to Camrose and placed on a lot on the north side of Mirror Lake where he lived for a time. It may be of interest that the house is still in use.

Raymond and Helen Carlson bought this house in 1951. After Raymond's passing in 1952, Helen and their two children, Charlotte and Curtis Carlson, continued to live there several years.



1914 Ford is loaded and ready to go. Enoch and Carrie Scotvold, their three children, Everald, Margareite, and Katherine, and Ruth Lien, Ella Hendrickson, and Bernice Anderson.

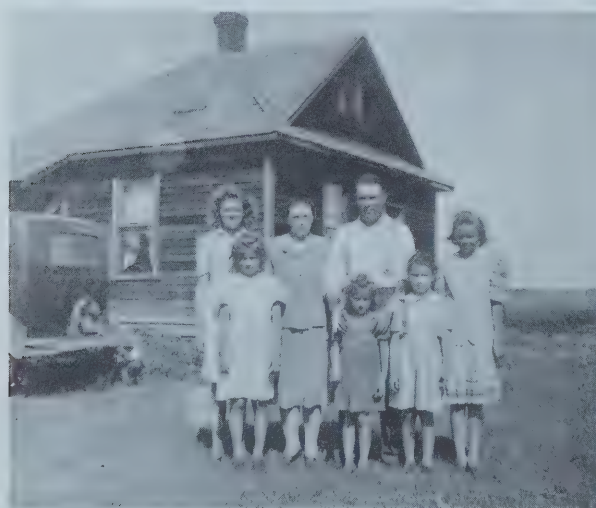
The farm was later purchased by Ole Rosedahl, as it adjoined his land.

Robert and Lydia (Wolski) Schroeder **written by Frieda (Schroeder) Ness**

Robert Schroeder was born in Poland in 1908, the second youngest in a family of seven. In 1915 the family was forced to leave their home and go to Siberia because of the war. The day finally came in 1928 when Robert was able to immigrate to Canada. On the boat he became friendly with a young man from Denmark who advised him to go west to Alberta. He worked on a farm just out of Edmonton for awhile. Later he worked for Henry Dravis at Botha, who taught him many things about the Canadian way of life.

Lydia Wolski was born in Poland but had to come to Canada to meet her husband. She made her fare for the ocean crossing by sewing for other people, and came to Canada in 1929, along with two brothers and a sister and their families. She stayed in Camrose while the others went to the Peace River country to take up homesteads. Lydia worked for Mrs. Matt Weisser and Mrs. Jim Agrios before her marriage to Robert Schroeder in 1930.

The first few years they rented different farms in the area. Yearning to own his own farm, he had heard that the Bank of Montreal owned SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -30-47-20-W4 so he went in to talk to the manager, who told him he could move on to the farm for \$75.00 down. His first reaction was disbelief, as he was under the impression that it would take more money to buy his first farm. Therefore he left the bank a happy young man with part of his dream coming true. He and Lydia moved on to this farm in 1934.



Robert Schroeder family. Back Row, Left to Right: Frieda, Lydia, Robert, Elsie. Front Row: Tina, Margaret, Florence.

The next few years were spent clearing land, and raising a few cattle and hogs. In 1938 he bought the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -30-47-20-W4 from Oscar Thompson. He also bought a 15-30 McCormick tractor with which to do the breaking as this new quarter was completely pasture land. In 1945 he purchased the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -29-47-20-W4 which he had rented from Nels Lyseng prior to purchasing his first quarter. Robert continued mixed farming until 1949, when Ben Sal-lee purchased the land.

In the fall of 1949 he held an auction sale and moved into Camrose where he purchased Bill's Cafe, and while operating the restaurant he acquired the old Dahl farm and returned to farming in the summer of 1950, also purchasing the Ed Nordstrom farm.

Robert and Lydia retired from farming in 1967, selling the farm to Anton Zeiser, and moving into Camrose, residing there until Robert's demise in February 1982. During the years the Schroeders raised a family of five daughters, Frieda (Mrs. Gordon Ness), Camrose, Elsie (Mrs. Wilf Thompson) Camrose, Tina (Mrs. Dale Keeble) Edmonton, Florence (Mrs. Rodger David) Edmonton and Margaret (Mrs. Orlando Nisi) Calgary. There are several grandchildren.

Melvin Severson Family

Melvin's grandfather, Ole Severson was born in Norway. His son Erick, was also born in Norway in 1855. In 1869 Ole and his son Erick left Norway and came to North Dakota to farm. I don't know in what year or to whom but Erick married while in North Dakota and to this union two sons were born, namely Martin and Oscar. Martin was an avid baseball player and catching was the position he played. The story has it that during a baseball game he was struck in the chest by a baseball and later died.

In the year 1900 Erick married Marita Johnson. On February 25, 1901 a son, Lawrence was born. In January of 1901, Erick and Marita, Father Ole and uncle Oscar came to Alberta to homestead on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 16-48-20. Ole owned the quarter directly north and Oscar homesteaded 80 acres directly east of the home quarter.

On September 18, 1904 Melvin George was born. Two years later in 1906 Marita took sick and died. She is buried in the Fridhem Lutheran Church cemetery. Also in 1906 Ole took sick and went to stay at the John Slind home. I don't know what took place but either Ole transferred the land to Slinds or he sold it and gave the money to Slinds to look after him until his death. He died in 1911 and is buried in the family plot in the Bethlehem Church cemetery.

Later in 1914 or 15 Oscar had physical and mental



Four generations — Melvin and Agnes Severson, Agnes, Melvin, Sharon, Jeffrey, Violet.

problems and was taken to Ponoka Mental Hospital and died there of the flu in 1918.

Going back a few years to Marita's death, she left a husband and two small sons, Lawrence, just four and a half, Melvin one and a half. Lawrence stayed on the farm with his dad and in the space of one year Melvin was taken to the John Waldum home at Lundemo, to Frank Johnson home, to the John Slind home and finally to the Andrew Johnson home at the age of two and a half. He was lovingly cared for in the Andrew Johnson home until 1912 when Erick married Ollana Nelson from Norway. Upon this marriage Melvin returned home to live with his father, step mother and brother.

In the fall of 1913 the original log house, burned down. Melvin again was returned to live with the Andrew Johnsons until a new house was built. The

new house was built directly south of the log house and still stands there with a few changes to modernize and expand the floor area. Then in 1914 Melvin returned home to live again. He was 10 years old.

Going back a few years again to 1911, Melvin started to school at the age of 7. He went to the one room schoolhouse, Thronson, getting there either on foot or by horseback. He stayed in school until he was about fifteen years old and then stayed home to help on the farm.

In 1917 he along with a group of young people started "reading for the Minister." They were confirmed in the Scandia Lutheran Church near Armena in August of 1919.

In later years Lawrence and Dad rented the farm from their father. Then Erick and Ollana built a new house on a location closer to the west road in the home quarter. Lawrence and Dad farmed together until 1932 when Dad hired a man, Olaf Housfloan, to farm his share and then went on the road, becoming a Watkins Products peddler. He peddled with horse and wagon, firstly in the South Edmonton Clover Bar district and then in January 1933 he was transferred to the Iron Creek district near Viking. It was during this time that he made many lifetime friends that he still talks about today.

On New Year's Eve in 1933 Ollana passed away. She is buried at the Fridhem Church cemetery. After her death Erick moved back to the big house to live with Lawrence.

In March 1934 Dad quit peddling Watkins and returned home to marry Agnes Murchie of the Bawlf



Erik and Olena Severson, Lawrence and Melvin.



Melvin Severson family. Martin, Violet, Alice, Melvin, Agnes.

district. They were married on March 17 by Pastor Carlson in the log house at Anders Lyseng farm in the Armena area.

On December 23, 1934 a daughter Violet Georgina was born. In the year that followed Dad rented the Bockey's quarter so he, mother and baby Violet moved there to live. In 1936 Lawrence married Jean Murchie (Agnes's sister) and they moved Erick and Oliana's house to Lawrence's quarter and set up housekeeping there. Now with both sons married Erick shared living with both households. Starting also in 1936 Dad supplemented his income by cutting wood and hauling it and coal for the Thronson School. He cut and hauled wood from a bush quarter owned by the C.P.R. and now owned by and farmed by his son Martin. The coal, he hauled from the Dinant Coal Mine for \$2.50 a sleigh load. Lawrence and Dad also added to their income by hiring out as trail hands, herding cattle ready for market, to the nearest railway depot to be shipped to Edmonton. The railway depots used were usually Dinant, Armena, or Camrose. Dad also talks of the many days and weeks spent breaking horses and training them to drive without kicking up their heels. I also remember him delivering mail for Henry Gunderson out of Kingman on some rainy days. In those days there was little or no gravel on a lot of the roads and the mail had to be delivered. So Henry came to our place across the sod pastureland and Dad on trusty "Barn-ey" delivered the mail from there. Sort of a modern Pony Express!

In August of 1940 Erick, age eighty five, passed away and was buried in the Fridhem Church cemetery. Then on September 1, 1940 I arrived as chosen daughter of Melvin and Agnes. Three years later a brother, Martin Henry arrived on July 3, 1943, also a



Billy and Jacky Bowes, August, 1960.

chosen son. In the year 1944 Dad made the decision to purchase a bush-quarter from the C.P.R. This was the same quarter he had cut wood on for the school house a few years earlier. After many back breaking hours of root picking etc. a few acres were cleared away every year until half the quarter was cleared. The other half was then fenced and a daily chore, when we were kids was to drive the cattle to the bush for pasture in the morning and fetch them home for milking in the evening. That bush furnished our household with loads of wild raspberries, saskatoons, and high bush cranberries. Not only for us, but many neighbors also, carried pailsful of fruit out to be made into fruit, jams, and jellies. Mom had a housedog Mickey, and every year at berry picking time she was a lifesaver. She was always able to sniff out the bees' nests, skunks or porcupines and warn us of the problem. As a result there was never any serious altercations with any of these. Our main supply of firewood also came from this quarter. I remember wood cutting bees where a couple of blocks grew to be a small mountain of firewood. Neighbors all worked together for this job because it was one of those that a person could not do alone. It was also at this time that I thought we nearly burned as much firewood as was cut, keeping the old cookstove hot so Mom could come up with lots of fresh home baked bread and pies — baking needed to feed a hungry woodcutting crew.

My memories of the first two years of school at the Thronson school are many. Nine grades in one room, Mrs. French and Miss Audrey Wilcox, were teachers, learning to skate on bob skates on the Thronson slough, being chased by boys brandishing garter snakes, either walking or riding old Billy, or being driven by Dad in the sleigh in the cold of winter. One thing I will never forget is the scared feeling when Claude Robinson, the cigar smoking superintendent, visited. He would slowly walk up each and every aisle, with hands clasped behind his back, just watching the work we were all doing. In the fall of 1949 the Thronson School closed and we were trucked and later bussed to the central school at Armena.

In the fall of 1950, John Wesley Bowes, called Jackie, came to make his home with us. He was nine months old at the time. He was the son of John and Mildred Bowes of Camrose and due to the hospitalization of his mother, he was brought to live with us. Four years later his brother Billy came and stayed until he was fourteen.

After deciding that the old barn was beyond repair, a new hip roof barn was built in 1951. With brother Lawrence's directions and neighbors help it was completed that fall. Before it was shingled,

Martin and I, eight and eleven at that time were caught up on the roof playing tag. Dad caught us up there, he was furious, but being afraid of heights he wouldn't come and get us down. After getting him to promise no spanking — we came down. Today I shudder at that prank.

June 23, 1953 was the day Violet chose to marry Harold Lindballe of the Daysland district. To this union four children were born. Sharon married John Rissling of Delta, British Columbia. She and John gave Mom and Dad their first great grandson, Jeffery John, born November 8, 1978. Donna lives and works for the government in Victoria, British Columbia. Lyle lives in Camrose and works for Camrose Decorators. Lyle married Teresa Hault of the New Norway district on August 1, 1981. Harold and Violet were divorced and in July of 1977 Violet married Henry Unverricht, a farmer and oilfield worker of Gordondale, Alberta.

In November of 1958 I married Ron Marler of Camrose. For the first two years of marriage we lived on and rented a quarter of land owned by Ron's grandfather W. W. Marler. It is now known as the Marler subdivision of Camrose. In March 1963 we purchased a half section of land seven miles south of Ohaton and still farm there. We have four children. Margo lives at home and is a photographer with Jun Mah Studio of Camrose. Danny lives at home and is working for Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in Camrose. Marion is in Grade X and Anita is in Grade V. They attend the Bawlf school.

In August of 1964 John Bowes passed away suddenly and Jackie and Billy went to live with their Aunt Hazel Augustine in Toronto, Ontario. They completed their education and are both heavy duty mechanics. Bill married Marnie Armbruster in the spring of 1968. They have two daughters, Becky and Beverly, and live in Merrit, British Columbia. Jack married Anne in 1972 and they with a daughter and son live in Bellevue, Ontario.

In July 1965 Martin married Cora Vandenberg of Camrose. For two years they lived in Camrose with Martin working at the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool and Cora at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. In the fall of 1967 they purchased the Billy McDonald farm in the Dinant district. Eventually he bought the C.P.R. quarter from Dad and the Anna Watland (Andrew Johnson homestead). To this union three children were born Holly, Nolan and Russell, all living at home.

After selling the C.P.R. quarter to Martin, Dad then worked at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park for two years. It was shortly before this time that a foster daughter, Connie Howse, came to make her home with the folks. Connie is now married to Marvin

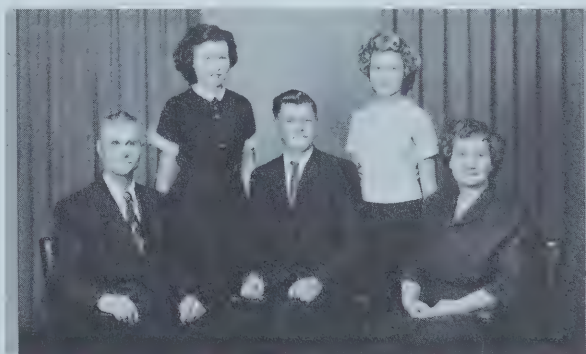
Willier. They make their home in Edmonton with their two sons and one daughter.

Dad spent the year of 1973 looking after his herd of Aberdeen Angus and then after the stormy winter of '73-74 decided to move to Camrose. On April 10, just before the water started running in the spring of '74, he sold his home quarter to a neighbor, Rupert Wenig and moved to a bungalow on 48th avenue and 48th street in Camrose. Mom and Dad are active in the Sons of Norway, Ronning Lodge and are avid bowlers.

Lawrence Severson Family

Lawrence Severson was born in the Camrose area on February 25, 1901. On the homestead, his dad had built a shack with a sod roof. When it rained, it dripped through the roof so Lawrence would crawl under the table to keep from getting wet. His mother would set pans around to catch the drips. Later, his dad built another house. On September 18, 1904 Lawrence got a baby brother who they named Melvin.

When Lawrence was four and a half years old his mother died. His grandfather helped care for the home for a time but his health began to fail so he went to live with Mr. and Mrs. J. Slind.



Lawrence Severson family. Standing: Lorna, Nellie. Seated: Lawrence, James, Jean.

Lawrence went to school at the Thronson School and often went home with the Skaret boys and other friends for supper. When Lawrence was twelve years old his dad married Mrs. Nelson and then Melvin who had been staying with neighbors returned home.

Lawrence worked on the farm with his dad until December, 1937 when he married Jean Murehie. We then moved to the other farm (east quarter) and made our own home there. Dad came to live with us for a few years but he had a stroke and was confined to bed until he passed away at home at the age of eighty-five years (1940).

To make extra money, Lawrence made a sawmill



Lawrence's saw-mill. Carl Anderson with 2 x 4, Lawrence in back.

and neighbors brought their logs to him to be sawed into lumber. He also took his equipment and went to neighbors places to saw their fire wood.

I was kept busy with our three children, Lorna, James and Nellie; and I also had a big garden and raised chickens and turkeys to sell.

Lorna, born in 1939, took her schooling at Dinant, after that she went to Edmonton to train as a Nursing Aide. She graduated in 1959 and took a job in the Edson Hospital. There she met Melvin Klaassen who was working in the Pulp Mill. They were married in Bethlehem Church April 16, 1960. They have two children, Deanna and Donald, both at home with their parents at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.



Erik Severson on Spike.

James, after his schooling, farmed with his father and also worked at the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool in Camrose. He married Doris Olson from Calgary and they moved to Calgary where James continued his work with the Pool. In 1976 they moved back to Camrose where James is employed as Shipper-Receiver at the Hudson Bay store. Their children are Kendall, Keith and Colin.

Nellie started her schooling at Dinant. With consolidation, she was moved to Armena and then to Hay Lakes for High School. In 1966, Nellie graduated from the Provincial Mental Institute School of Nursing in Edmonton as a Psychiatric Nurse. She got a job there and continued with her nursing duties until, in 1967, she married Gordon Sherwin. Gordon is Assistant General Manager of International Money Markets. He was transferred to Toronto and there Nellie took employment as a nurse until they were transferred to England. Gordon's profession has taken them to many countries. At present, they are stationed at Toronto. They have a son, Stanley, age seven and a daughter, Sarah, age five.

On December 10, 1969 we had a farm sale. In February, Joe Vandenberg bought our farm and we moved to Camrose, where we were very happy until Lawrence's sudden passing on September 11, 1977.

Oscar Sholds

Oscar Shold was born in Newman Grove, Nebraska on August 18, 1888 and there he spent his childhood years. In 1913, when a young man of twenty-five he decided to come to Canada. He found work as a hired hand first for Elling Olson and then for J. B. Erickson. The J. B. Ericksons had five daughters and Oscar chose Esther for his future bride. Esther, the eldest of the girls was born June 20, 1900. They were married June 17, 1919 at Grandpa Anderson's house in Camrose by Pastor Lindgren, and left that same day on their honeymoon to Nebraska.

Esther and Oscar lived two miles southeast of Armena, where they farmed and raised their family of six. They lived here from 1920 until 1948, at which time the farm they were renting was sold to Chester Olson. They then moved in with Grandma and Andy Erickson. Oscar continued to farm a quarter of land half a mile southeast of Armena. They then bought a house in Armena known as the Hendrickson house or parsonage. They lived there until 1965 when they moved to Camrose due to poor health. Esther passed away December 28, 1971 and Oscar on March 18, 1974.

Gordy, the eldest son, born August 30, 1920 married Alice Julianne Dubois in Dauphin, Man-



Oscar Shold Family. Gordy, Archie, Jimmy, Elsie, Frances, Esther, Oscar.

itoba. They were both in the service, Gordy in the Canadian Postal Corps and Julie in the R.C.A.F. (W.D.). They now live in Camrose where Gordy continues to work for the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool Ltd., where he has been employed for over thirty-one years. They have two sons Kenneth Gordon born November 11, 1947 and Dean Kevin born July 10, 1963. Ken is married to Arlene (Anderson) and lives in Brandon, Manitoba, where Ken is employed as a denturist. They have a little daughter Kara Lee born June 29, 1979.

Dean has just graduated from Camrose Composite High School, and will be entering University of Alberta this fall contemplating a career in computer science.

Elsie, the eldest daughter born June 6, 1923 enlisted in the navy and spent several years overseas. She is married to Joe Lachaski and they live in Edmonton. They have one daughter Jody, who is married to Paul Lanctôt and they too live in Edmonton.

Archie, born March 9, 1925, is married to Lois Caldwell. They now live in Victoria where they are both employed and Archie spends all his spare time repairing and making violins. They have twin sons Clayton and Murray and a daughter Aimie. Murray is married and both he and his wife are school teachers. Aimee was just recently married to Steve Best.

Frances Marie born May 21, 1927 is married to Robert Riddle. Robert is an electrician for Labatts' Brewery, and they also live in Edmonton. They have one daughter Sharron, who is enrolled at the University of Alberta, taking pre-med.

Jim, born May 20, 1929, was married to Molly Klug. They had six children; Kathy is a nurse in Vancouver, Brenda is married to Les Groeller and recently moved to Strathmore, Alberta. They have a

wee daughter Jamie. Danny is in partnership with his dad and they live in Fox Creek. Laura, Teresa, and John all live in Edmonton.

Amy Irene was born on August 29, 1934. She was in poor health and passed away at the age of seven.

Magnus and Marguerite Sigurdson Family by Elmer S. Olson

Marguerite, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Olson, was born August 28, 1909. After attending the Camrose Normal School, she taught school for thirteen years. In August 1942 she married Magnus Sigurdson, a draftsman and machinist. They managed Co-op stores in Tofino, B.C. and various other locations. Later, they purchased an acreage at Cloverdale, B.C. where they operated a chincilla ranch for several years. The last few years have been spent in Burnaby. They have one daughter, Jeannette. She is employed as a dental assistant. Jeannette and her husband Jack Kennedy live in Burns Lake, B.C. where he works for B.C. Telephone Company. They have two children.

Ole and Kristine Skaret

Ole Skaret (1869-1939) was born on The Skaaret farm near Tysil, Norway. The name was derived from a "skar" or cleft in the Fregn mountains.

Ole met Kristina Erickson (1870-1943) in Los, Sweden. They were later married at the home of Ole's uncle, Torger Persen in 1899.

Ole and Kristina lived in Sweden for a few years as employees of Torger Persen. Two children Avey (Mrs. Lars Grue) and Arthur were born here. In 1892 Ole left his family for the United States ending up as a farmhand in Harvey, North Dakota. Two years later Kristina and the two children joined him. Arthur died shortly after. While in North Dakota, Mary (Mrs. Anton Thronson), Arthur and William were born. Arthur later married Bertina Ostrem and William married Margaret Heiner.

In 1901 the family moved to Canada and homesteaded in the Armena area. Their first home was a tent on a small knoll on their homestead. This knoll



Family of Ole and Kristine Skaret, 1930. Avey, Arthur, Olga, Mother, Ragnild, Father, Helmer, Mary, Raymond, Richard, William.



Skaret family — 1917.



Skaret's home near Armena.



Olga, Richard, Ragnild, Mary, Raymond, 1975.

became known as “telte bakken,” and became a favorite playground for the children that came along regularly.

Ole continued to expand his farm holdings to provide for his ever growing family. New additions were; Ragnild (Mrs. Gust Ostrem), Helmer, Richard (died 1910), Olga (Mrs. Dick Erickson) Raymond and Richard. Raymond married Olga Sware and Richard married Ruth Jornlin. Richard and Ruth continued to live on the home farm until its sale in 1980 to Mr. Wilson.

I guess our most pleasant memories of Ole and Kristina was their ability to find time for fun with each other and their family. How mother enjoyed April fooling us all, especially Dad. At one time she even had him crawling under the old log granary looking for a “setting hen.”

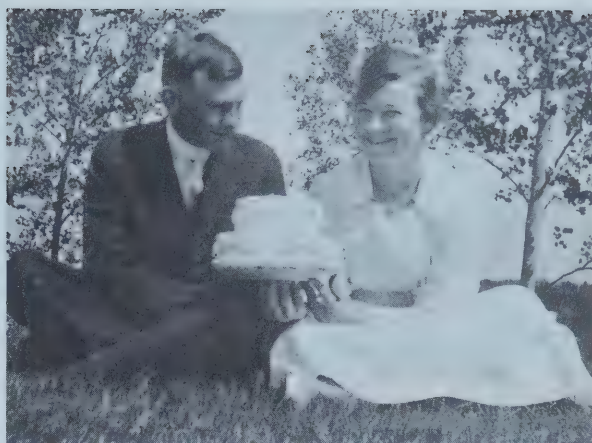
Their descendants now number over one hundred and fifty. Still living from the original family are Mary, Ragnild, Olga and Richard all of Camrose and Raymond of Edmonton.

Arthur Skaret Family

Arthur Ole Skaret came to Canada from Harvey, North Dakota in 1901, with his parents, Ole and Kristina, at the age of four. Travelling by Pacific railway to Wetaskiwin, he could remember the long wagon ride to where Armena is now located.

He attended Thronson school, and was confirmed November 19, 1911, at Scandia Lutheran Church. In 1917, during World War I, being the oldest son, he was drafted into the army, but being ill when his regiment left for England, he did not serve overseas. He also attended Bible School at Fergus Falls, Minnesota for a winter term.

Arthur purchased NE 6-48-20 from his father, and the little log house on it became home upon his



Arthur and Bertina Skaret's wedding, July 29, 1920.

marriage to Bertina Ostrem, July 29, 1920. It was small, but cozy. A granary had to be used for over-night guests. Their first child was born in this house.

All field work was done by the use of horses. When using a two-share plow; six horses were needed. It was usual to walk all day behind the harrow.

The wood to burn in the cook stove was brought in to the wood box by cutting down trees, sawing and splitting each piece. One day when Arthur was chopping trees the axe slipped, cutting his overshoe and shoe. Walking home, he was sure he could feel blood in his shoe. Bertina helped him carefully to take the shoe off, for he dreaded the sight of blood. To their surprise, the foot was not even scratched. They had a good laugh, even if the shoe and overshoe were gone.

The need for more room was soon met with the building of a two storey, 24' x 26', frame house. Happy years were spent as the family grew and the house was completed. They had five children; Clarice, Thelma, Marville, Philip, and Daniel. The family were members of Scandia Lutheran Church, which played an active role in their lives and community.

The older children went to Lyseng School, and would challenge anyone who claimed there was a better school going at the time. Daniel went to Armena School. They all attended Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute at one time or another, and Thelma and Daniel also attended Camrose Lutheran College.

Philip, born May 7, 1927, died April 28, 1930, from double pneumonia.

Much sorrow came to the family again, when on May 16, 1938, Arthur died from tuberculosis, just five months after the death of two brothers, Helmer and William. With the help, during his illness and following, of family and especially brothers Raymond, and Richard, and good neighbor, Martin



Bertina Skaret and family, Christmas 1969.

Lyseng, the farm work was accomplished. Albert Olafson, became a dear friend to the family, as he worked with and for them for three seasons. Marville assumed much responsibility at an early age, and he later purchased the farm.

About that time, Bertina was challenged by the desire to bring a Christian Book Store to Camrose. With Thelma's help, the Corner Book Store was established, and she owned and operated it for a number of years.

Bertina, along with Thelma and Daniel, for a time, moved to Camrose in February 1955, buying a home on a downtown location. With the building of a large Woolworth's store, her house had to be cleared away. So it was moved to the farm of her daughter and son-in-law Clarice and Art Olafson, on Highway 21, south of Armena. She enjoys another home now at 5903-47 Avenue.

Bertina has a keen interest in family history and has done some good work in complying information and completing family trees. As a result of this interest she has made three trips to Norway; the first one with sister-in-law Margaret Hendrickson, the next one alone, and the third with Marville and granddaughter Susan. Each time was spent finding and visiting relatives in the "old country."

Custom is that the family goes to Grandma's house for Christmas Eve. There has sometimes been "full attendance." She boasts of her fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, and her family truly "rise up and call her blessed."

Clarice, first child of Arthur and Bertina Skaret, Clarice Boletha was born in their log house, 1921, with Mrs. G. O. Hendrickson as nurse and doctor. She was baptized at Scandia Lutheran Church by Rev. Olaf Ellingson.

When she was quite small, she had her tonsils out and she told the doctor "I'll never have that done again!"

Norwegian was her first language, so she had much to learn when she went to school. One foggy day, she started off walking to Lyseng School, one mile east of home. By 11 A.M., she came home, having walked in circles till she saw the outline of a building, hoping it was the school. For her grade nine, she stayed with Uncle Benjamin Ostrem's and attended school in Wetaskiwin.

Clarice cooked at Sylvan and Hastings Lake Bible Camps for several summers. While she was cooking at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, she met Art Olafson, who was student and janitor there. Some years later, in 1946, they were married at Scandia

with Pastors Ray Olson and Gust Ostrem officiating. The tables on the lawn were set for the wedding meal before the family left for the church. Nothing was disturbed, it was such a calm and beautiful day.

Art had grown up in Saskatchewan and moved to southern Alberta. Their first home was on Art's farm north of Rolling Hills. This was a new settlement on irrigation land and there was something of a pioneer spirit amongst them. It was here that their children, Wayne, Shirley, and Larry were born. They were active in the little church there — Clarice was often organist, having learned to play on the old organ at home.

In 1954, they bought the Arnt Moe farm, NE 4-48-21, west of Armena, moving here that spring. Yet another purchase in 1963 took them to the Rolseth farm, SE 35-47-21, on Highway 21, where they continue to live.

Two more children were born here: Mark and Fay. Their family are members at Scandia Lutheran Church, the children having attended schools at Armena and Hay Lakes, and also Camrose Lutheran College.

Wayne married Janice Falk, Ferintosh, in 1973. They have two children, Kevin and Craig and have just finished building a new home in Armena. Janice is a hairdresser, and Wayne, brother Larry, and brother-in-law Dale Falk, own and operate Camrose City Bakery.

Shirley married Stephen Larson, Anacortes, Washington in 1971, whom she met while attending Seattle Lutheran Bible Institute. They have a daughter, Kirsten and live at Sherwood Park, where Shirley works at the County office and Steve is obtaining his chartered accountant certificate through work at an Edmonton firm.

Larry married Debra Shepherd, Edson, in 1978. Debbie is a receptionist at a law firm and Larry "bakes." They own NE 35-47-21 adjoining his parents' farm, and are establishing a home there. Joanne Shepherd, Debbie's sister lives with them and attends school at Hay Lakes.

Mark recently married Patricia Sheppard, Camrose, in 1981. Mark is a partner in a landscaping business and Pat has one year left at University of Alberta to obtain her B. of Ed.

Fay graduated from C.B.I.I., 1981 and intends to further her education.

Art and Clarice celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary at home, 1971, with an open house for relatives and friends. For the last few years, they have rented their land, but Art continues to enjoy some hobby farming. Clarice is well known at Camrose Lutheran College, where she has been head cook since 1970.

The Olafsons have expressed appreciation for this having been a good community in which to live and raise their family.

Marville, eldest son of Bertina and Arthur Skaret, became a farmer at an early age, due to the death of his father. Eventually, he bought the farm, and it continues to be home to him and his family.

Young brother Daniel was a good help as he was close to home during his school years. When he was barely old enough to drive horses, Marville and cousin Don Ostrem, tied him to the disc so he should not fall off, while they were occupied elsewhere. Things were not always done without some risk involved!

Their father had begun to raise Percheron horses and the family continued so to do. At one time they had thirteen horses, several of which won prizes when entered at the Camrose fair. They were big animals to feed, harness and handle. When the first tractor was bought in 1944, the horses were gradually sold.

In 1955, Marville and Delores Anderson were married at Salem Lutheran Church, Scandia. She was a teacher at Brooks and since, has been a substitute teacher at Armena and Hay Lakes schools.



Marville Skaret family, 1976.

Their farming operation has grown to include more land and improved buildings. The house his father had built was put on a foundation and modernized, serving well for many years. Then a new home was built on the same site in 1966 to meet the needs of their family. The old house was moved and is still used at Rolly View.

Marville and Delores have six children: Mardell, Merlyn, Daryl, Kirsti, Susan, and Karl. They all attended Armena school until its closure, and then they went to Hay Lakes school. The family are mem-

bers at Scandia Lutheran Church, and appreciate very much being part of the Armena community.

Mardell attended Camrose Lutheran College and University of Alberta to receive her B. of Ed. She married Verlyn Olson, son of Anton and Norma, in May, 1976. He attended Camrose Lutheran College and received a Law degree from University of Alberta, and is practicing in Camrose. They have two children a daughter, Laura Maren, and a son Hans Ole Skaret Olson.

Merlyn also attended Camrose Lutheran College, and graduated from University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Nursing. She is enjoying work at the hospital in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Daryl took Grade XII at Camrose Lutheran College, and went on to Olds Agricultural School. He is working into the farming operation at home.

Kirsti took Grade XII at L.C.B.I., Outlook, Saskatchewan and has completed two years of Phys. Ed. program from Camrose Lutheran College. She will continue her education at University of Alberta to graduate.

Susan also graduated from grade XII at L.C.B.I. and will continue her education at Camrose Lutheran College.

Karl is beginning High School at Hay Lakes this year.

The boys enjoy hockey, and the whole gang enjoy skiing, going to the mountains as often as they can during the winter. To celebrate Marv's and Delores' twenty-fifth anniversary, the entire family, including little Laura, had an enjoyable trip to California and Disneyland.

The Skaret clan get together for Reunions annually and that has maintained a closeness amongst family members. Through this and other landmarks along the way, we are reminded of how much has been passed on to us from our forefathers. For all this, we are truly grateful.

Thelma — Following several years as secretary-bookkeeper, and most recently as secretary for the president at Camrose Lutheran College, Thelma married Niels Hjorth of Tilley, Alberta, in 1969. They live on the family farm there in irrigation country and welcome visitors from "home."

Daniel — Daniel attended the University of Alberta from which he graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science. He obtained his certificate as a chartered accountant through his work with an accounting firm in Edmonton.

He met Brenda Lovness from Cottonwood, Minnesota, when she was on tour with Concordia band to Edmonton. They were married in 1961. Their children are David, Diane, and Gregory.

In 1965 he accepted the position of executive

secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada with offices at Saskatoon. So they moved from Edmonton to Saskatoon, where they continue to live and serve. They plan to spend one year, beginning September, 1981 at Lae Papua, New Guinea, where Dan will assist the church there in its finance department.

William and Margaret Skaret

William was born in North Dakota in 1900 to pioneers Ole and Kristina Skaret. In the spring of 1901 the family moved to a quarter section of land three miles northeast of what is now known as Armena. After working on the family farm for some years William ventured forth, borrowing money to buy his own land, just south of the Skaret farmstead. In 1927 he married a neighboring teacher, Margaret Heiner, who was the daughter of the former Augustana Lutheran pastor, Rev. Leonard Heiner. Margaret was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1906, coming with her father to Canada in 1915. She took her teacher training at the Camrose Normal School.

In spite of difficult times, there were dreams of a more positive future, some to become reality others to fade into the distance. William took pride in a well equipped "blacksmith shop" which aided him in repairing machinery and tools, at the same time acquiring a skill which he enjoyed. Margaret taught school at Thronson school for two or three years early in their marriage to assist with land payments.

Three children were born, Herbert in 1928, Arlene in 1934, Rodney in 1936. In the fall of 1937 William took sick, dying at home of pneumonia December 22. Margaret was left with her young children to carry on the farming operations. Herb, only 9 years old, but being the eldest, was a great



William Skaret family. Margaret holding Rodney, William (right), Herbert and Arlene in front.

help. Besides hired help and good neighbors it took rigorous work and determination to attempt to "make it". Set backs through farm accidents and loss of cows through suffocation in a fresh straw pile added extra challenges.

Herbert and Arlene attended the Lyseng school before the big two-room school was built in Armena. We remember well cutting across snow-filled stubble fields to make our daily route shorter. More than once the teacher had to assist with getting frozen snowboots off! Occasionally we enjoyed the luxury of travelling by horse or on the bar of a bicycle.

We have warm memories as young children of peering out our north kitchen window to Grandpa Skaret's house a short mile away. One Christmas Eve every window in the two-storey house was lighted with candles welcoming family and grandchildren for the typical Scandinavian meal followed by a program and the reading of the Christmas gospel. Maybe that's why to this day our annual Skaret Family Reunion is so meaningful!

Margaret was always very involved in the work of the church, teaching Sunday School and Confirmation classes, serving on local and conference LCW executives, as well as being the first female member of the Board of Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute and president of the CLBI Ladies' Auxiliary.

She married Martin Hendrickson (Armena west) in 1941. Because of the location of their home, Thor-denskjold school children would be excused to walk over every Tuesday for piano lessons taught by a retired Moravian minister, Pastor Schultze. The work of Scandia Lutheran Church and its outreach always took a prominent place in the lives of Martin and Margaret. They moved into Camrose in 1965. Margaret died of cancer in 1970.

Rodney bought the farm and other land in the area where he has actively farmed since graduation from Vermilion School of Agriculture. Rodney and Carol (teacher) have three children, Todd, Denise and Chad. They are all involved in community and church affairs. Rodney is presently serving on the St. Mary's Hospital Board of Directors.

Arlene took a business course and has worked in various office capacities. She married Alver Person in 1959 and together they own Bugar Funeral Home Ltd. Their life has been both church and civic orientated. They have two children, Kathryn and John.

Herbert has been associated with Western Supplies Limited for most of his working career. He is Vice-President and Director of Operations for this western Canadian company. Herb has two children, Deborah and Warren. His wife, Doris is Vice-Principal of Harry Ainley High School.

Herb, Arlene and Rodney are all graduates of Camrose Lutheran College, a school their parents supported down through the years.

The Richard Skaret Family

Ruth Jornlin was born July 20, 1916, the fourth child of Minech and Sophia Jornlin. She lived at home till 1938, when she married Richard Palmer Skaret, son of Ole and Kristina Skaret. They took over the home place and farmed for approximately thirty-six years. Richard then worked at Ostrem Chemicals in Edmonton for the last sixteen years. In 1980 they sold their farm and retired to Camrose.

To them were born five children: Delmer Leroy, who married Laurelle Broughton. They have three children: Kevin, Wayne and Karen. Delores Carol was a school teacher. She married Ed Antonsen, who is a contractor. They have three children: John, Sonja, and David. They are living in Tsawassen, B.C. Linda Ruth also was a school teacher. She married Jerry Polei, a school teacher at Warburg, Alberta. They have three children: Paul, Michelle, and Ryan. Carvel Richard is a Physical Education teacher at the Chester Ronning School in Camrose. He married Dale Rasmussen and they have two children: Dawn and Kyle. Rick Ole, single, is a Psychiatric Nurse at Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton.

The Skaret Centennial Reunion by Raymond Skaret

Many activities marked Canada's Centennial year. One of probable interest to the Armena community was the Skaret and community Centennial Reunion.

Preparations had gone on for months; repairing harness and machinery, sewing costumes, baking pioneer foods and restoring a log building built in 1906.

Tents and trailers set up the night before, marked the beginning of the excitement. The next morning early risers busily checked equipment and harnessed the horses. Families excitedly and hurriedly ate their breakfasts and donned their costumes. Soon people of all ages emerged in pioneer garb; puffed ragamuffin sleeves, high-laced boots, parasols, denim overalls, striped shirts, black rounded hats and bow ties.

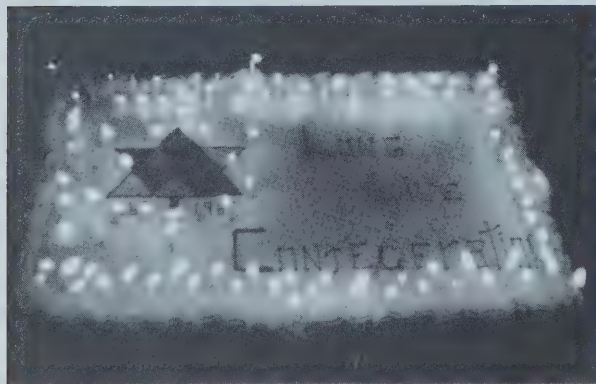
Activities began at 9:00 o'clock on the Marville Skaret farm where a parade lined up and started its route to the old home place. First came an old chevrolet car (1926 model) carrying the five surviving children of Ole and Kristina Skaret. They were followed by great grandchildren carrying flags and banners singing "Canada" the Centennial song. Behind them four grandsons playing trumpets and sax-

aphone. In succession followed the in-laws, perched high in a lumber wagon pulled by Martin Lyseng's old Hart Parr tractor; several young mothers and little children in a hayrack pulled by two horses borrowed for the occasion; the Olafsons in their covered wagon and finally Don Ostrem and Dick Erickson driving a 1915 Rumley "Oil Pull" tractor pulling an old Case threshing machine. Such was the parade that passed by interested neighbors and friends. Refreshments were brought by two ladies in a black horse-drawn buggy and all joined in a forenoon coffee-break at the former William Skaret farm. At the completion of the parade an old-time picnic lunch of homemade bread, beans, rhubarb sauce, cake and coffee was served.

In the afternoon friends and neighbors joined in a number of pioneer activities: plowing with a sulky plough pulled by two horses; wood sawing with the old Oil Pull and a big circular saw; threshing, again with the old Oil Pull and Case separator, real grain and real straw for the kids to play in: stump blasting and stump pulling.

After a Thresher's coffee break, activities continued around the old museum (a restored log building with articles provided by various community members), quilting, churning, wool carding, yarn spinning, flour grinding on an old stone grist mill, sharpening a sickle on an old peddle type grindstone, even washing babies in an old tub!

The evening consisted of chatting, singing and lighting a big confederation cake made for the occasion. Just before the lighting, Prospector Wilbur Thronson and wife arrived with a real donkey equipped with all the necessary paraphernalia for gold mining. While everyone was busy admiring this, whoops and yells from a number of neighbours dressed as Indians in war paint, braids and costumes, raided the camp but failed to make off with their victim. Instead a pipe of peace was smoked and they all joined in the ceremonial lighting of the Confederation cake.



Cake at Skaret's Reunion.

Sunday morning a "Thanksgiving" service and offering was held, led by Rev. G. J. Ostrem giving thanks on our behalf to our God for his many blessings, our Canada, and our heritage. So ended a memorable occasion for Skarets, friends and neighbours.

Olaf Skogman

by Bertha (Skogman) Ferguson and Vivian Thrasher

Olaf H. Skogman, with wife Eureka and five of their children, arrived in Alberta in the spring of 1902. They came by train along with other settlers from Minnesota to homestead the land they had chosen.

Their first home was dugout in a hillside, fortified with logs to make it safer, and more liveable; a sod roof kept out the rain and cold.

Early hardships were encountered in getting groceries and mail from Wetaskiwin, as there were no roads or bridges, merely a wagon trail.

Mosquitoes were rampant, due to the abundance of water on all sides, and children had to be protected with netting when playing outdoors.

There were no fences, and cattle had to be rounded up each evening for milking. A neighboring



Eureka Skogman pumping water.



Olaf Skogman and his thoroughbred stallion.

homesteader, Andrew Johnson, owned several cattle and the lone Skogman cow invariably chose to travel with them, (being somewhat of a roving kind —) so consequently had to be rounded up as well from wherever she chose to wander. Luckily in those days rabbits were plentiful, and provided a welcome source of meat for the settlers.

When a store and post office opened up in the home of Olaus Olson, called Pretty Hill — it was a blessing for the entire community. Later on, Dinant emerged, as a coal mine was developed nearby and the railway passed through. A station, store, and post office then became convenient to the folks who lived within range. The farmers could easily ship their cream from this point.

The Skogman dugout had now been replaced by a lumber dwelling, and three more children were born. There were now eight — Rosa, Dora, Mernell, Edith, Herman, Bertha, Clifford and Rudolph. They all attended Thronson School throughout the years. (It having been named after another early pioneer of the district.) The Skogman homestead had now become a fine farm with the addition of two more quarters purchased by Olaf and which he farmed until 1934.

Olaf Skogman had been a widower with five children before he married Eureka Seline several years before coming to Canada. From time to time the older children joined the family in Alberta, as conditions improved, and one of them, Mabel, became an early telephone operator in the town of Camrose, later joined by sister Edith.

Bertha, the youngest daughter, became a hairdresser in Vancouver, and this year, 1981, will celebrate her fiftieth wedding anniversary with husband John G. Ferguson on August 31. While still in her teens, Bertha was a correspondent for the Dinant News, and also entered a competition selling subscriptions for the Camrose Canadian.



Skogman farm.

Herman Skogman spent some time farming the home place before it was sold; later he and Clifford bought the Winfield Hotel.

Rudolph busied himself with homesteading, trapping, raising furbearing animals, and lumbering. (This also taking place in the Winfield area.)

There are but four Skogman children remaining at this time — Bertha and Mabel in Vancouver, Edith in Edmonton and Rudolph in Rimbey. Many descendants as well are living throughout Canada and the United States.

Despite the hardships of the pioneer days there were many good times to be had. People loved to attend gatherings at picnics and church affairs. Boating was another favorite pastime, with Miquelon Lake being a popular place.

The Skogmans dammed up the creek running through their farm to make a catch-all for muskrats. Not only the rats congregated there, but the neighboring young people often gathered there in the hot summer evenings after work for a swim. A couple of Swedish boys working in the area, Oscar and Holga Nordfeldt, who were excellent swimmers, would put on a demonstration. We were fascinated to see Holgar imitating a whale swimming under water.

Several individuals would make the crossing to the dances which were held across the lake — at the time. Voices blending harmoniously in favorite songs of the time were heard across the water as the boats made their way from shore to shore. Some folks held dances in their barns or granaries, with fiddlers and accordion players doing their best to provide merriment for the dancers who could keep going until dawn from sheer exuberance!

Olaf Skogman died at Winfield, Alberta in August, 1940. Eureka died in Edmonton in 1954.

The Sletten Story

by Alice Sletten

Emil (better known as “Spike”) Sletten came to Canada from Fosston, Minnesota, U.S.A. with his



Spike and Minnie Sletton's 40th Anniversary.



Irene Sletton and her horse Flossy.



Spike and his Clydesdale.

parents John and Marie Sletten, three sisters and one brother in April 1913. They settled at Sedalia, Alberta. Spike was nine years old at that time, and witnessed a good many years of pioneer life and all the difficulties that went with it as he grew up.

Spike married Minnie Blagen of Sedalia on December 20, 1927. To this union a daughter Irene was born. Spike and Minnie with Irene moved to Camrose in April of 1937. They lived on the Croft farm for one year, and then moved to the Loveseth place, where they farmed until 1949. Spike bought the Croft farm then and is still residing on it.

Spike was, and still is a very keen horseman. His favorites were the Clyde horses.

Spike's daughter Irene married Jack Anderson of



Spike and Alice's third anniversary.

Calgary and they have three children; Ross, Jackie, and Bruce of Calgary.

Minnie passed away December 1969 in Camrose.

Spike married Alice Knutson of Wetaskiwin, Alberta on December 3, 1973. Alice retired from the Wetaskiwin General Hospital November 30, 1973, after serving there for nine years as an R.N.A.

The Robert Smithson Family

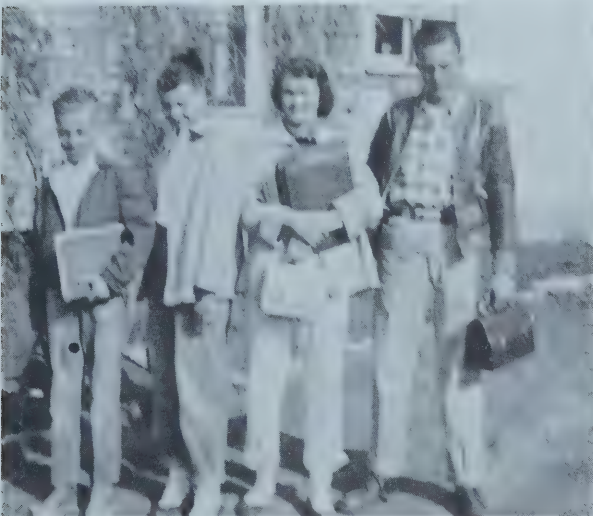
Sherman R. Smithson, known as Bob in the community, immigrated with his parents to Canada from Siloam Springs, Arkansas in the latter part of March of 1923 as a boy of ten. The snow was still on

the ground when they arrived in Alberta. So it was quite a change from green grass and also the gardens were up when they left the south country. Bob recalls it continued to snow a skiff every night for at least two weeks after they arrived.

With his parents, Bob settled on a farm at Dorelee, Alberta. He farmed with his dad for a number of years. Then in the winter of 1936-37, Bob bought a quarter of land on a crop share agreement. This meant for a small downpayment the buyer got possession of the land, then was bound thereafter to deliver half of the total crop to the elevator in the name of the seller. This paid the interest first, and whatever was left was applied on the principal. The other half of crop went for farm expenses, taxes and living expenses, until the land was paid for. The first year the barley yielded four bushels per acre, the wheat twelve bushels per acre.

Bob batched until 1939, when he married Elizabeth Peters. They were married in Edmonton, where Elizabeth was working at that time. She originally was raised on a farm in Southern Manitoba. But she had spent the last seven to eight years in the city, from Winnipeg, Vancouver and Edmonton. So going to a two room shack on a farm took a bit of adjusting. They lived at Dorelee until the spring of 1944, at which time they with their two children, Lawrence and Eileen, moved to the East Bittern Lake district. They settled on what was known as the Langston place, N.E. 29-47-21-4.

Bob farmed with horses the first year. Then in the spring of 1945, he took delivery of an IHC Farmall M tractor from Mr. C. T. Roper, the IHC dealer at Bittern Lake. An interesting fact is that this tractor retailed for (\$1700.00) seventeen hundred dollars at that time.



Smithson children waiting for school bus.



Smithson family. Lawrence, Bob, Lee, Lila, Elizabeth, Eileen.

Lila was born in the summer of 1944 and our fourth child, Robert Lee was born in the fall of 1945. Lawrence, our oldest, started school at the old Thordenskjold II School, with the late Mrs. Martin Hendrickson as the teacher. About a year later they got a school bus in the district and thus the children were bussed to the Armena school and later to Hay Lakes. All four children attended Armena school. The family took an active part in the community, home and School, Armena 4-H Beef Club and the local F.U.A.

The first few years the roads were poor, with no gravel whatsoever, so in the spring they were almost impassable. The store keeper at the village of Bittern Lake, Mr. Roper, used to phone up the families on the mail route, to take their orders for a few urgently needed groceries. He would send them out with the mail carrier, who drove a team of horses at that time. After we acquired a Jeep, we found we could go through roads that no car would travel altho' it was a bit breezy in the winter months.

In 1961, we moved to our present farm, known as the Lester Anderson farm, N.W. 36-47-22-4. Since we came to this area, each year a portion of our grain production has been registered and certified seed grain. We also have a herd of registered purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle.

After attending Armena and Hay Lake Schools the children all attended Camrose Lutheran College. Lawrence graduated from Agriculture Mechanics from Calgary Technical School and also took some welding courses. He farmed with his dad for a few years. He married Florence Rode, R.N.A. They now live at Hines Creek, Alberta (Peace River District). He is engaged in raising pedigree seed grain. They have two children. Eileen graduated as a registered nursing aide, and works in St. Mary's Hospital,

Camrose. She married Randle Broen. He is with Safeway at Camrose and also farming north of Camrose. They have five children. Lila graduated as a secretary. She worked for Calgary Power in Camrose and Edmonton. She married Darrel Rosland from Camrose. Darrell is now in Real Estate with World Realty in Camrose. They have two children. Robert Lee tried a number of vocations. He got his Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. He taught for a few years. He married Darlene Peter, a school teacher. They have two children. Lee now has his own Real Estate business in Spirit River, Alberta.

Besides the community activities the family has been taking an active part in the Church of God, in Camrose. Elizabeth has been active in the volunteer canvassing of the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Cancer Society. She has belonged to the Willing Workers of Armena for many years.

History of the Soderstrom Family

by George Soderstrom

Swan Soderstrom immigrated to the U.S.A. in the early 1890's and worked on the railroad for some time. Then he met another immigrant from Sweden, Sigred Swanson. They were married in August of 1898 and their first son, Carl, was born on August 15, 1899 in Everett, Washington. They then settled near Washburn, Wisconsin where three more children were born. Margaret Eleanor, known as Nora, was born February 21, 1910. In 1912 the family left their Wisconsin home by Lake Superior and arrived at Bittern Lake, Alberta in August.

They then purchased a quarter of land where the old Sifton school stood on S.E. ¼ 26-46-21. There were no buildings nor land broken but Father managed to build the shell of a house and some straw barns that fall before winter set in. He built the house on a little hill that they thought would be nice, but they did not know how cold the winds could blow in Alberta. Though I was only two years old, I remember waking up at night and crying because of the cold and was taken to the oven of the old kitchen range to warm up, while Father went out to nail the tar paper on again, to stop the wind. They brought some machinery along, but it was all geared for one horse. The plowing all had to be done by walking plow. After a few years they bought a gang plow from Mrs. Kinsman whose husband had died. That was some plow for us! Imagine, two furrows at a time and being able to ride on the plow! The three oldest children started school right away. I also started school there a little later. My youngest sister, Ellen was born on July 8, 1915.

In the spring of 1918 we sold our land to the

Burwells and moved to the Armena district where we bought the W ½ 35-47-21. It took a few years to clear the brush and break the land but we made good progress as Father was a good man with the axe. We had plenty of pasture land as there was open land on all sides, but sometimes it was hard to find the cows and get them home in time for milking. We had the good fortune of having the school on our land again. Evald and I, and later Ellen, attended the Busk school.

Carl purchased the N.E. of 27-47-21 and also the S.E. of 34-47-21 and farmed that until the time of his death of 1963.

Sorrow came to our home when mother became ill with a heart condition and passed on to her eternal home on March 15, 1926.

I was sixteen years old and Ellen was only ten.

Everything was changed then, Carl and Evald took over the farming. We had an auction sale and Father left all the farming to the boys. Evald bought a 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor and we did a lot of breaking of land for neighbors and also for Carl. Evald bought the N ½ of 23-47-21. He also bought a new McCormick Deering thresher that fall so we were in the threshing business. I worked with Evald those first years both in breaking and threshing. I received forty-five dollars a month and three dollars a day in threshing and harvest.

On June 28, 1928, Evald was married to Minnie Kaser of the East Bittern Lake district. They lived on the home place and the rest of us had to scatter. Carl moved to his land and became known as a turkey rancher. He also raised purebred Shorthorn cattle. He was Secretary-treasurer for the North Bittern Lake Mutual Telephone Co. for many years. After his death the farm was sold to Fred Morris.

Nora was married to Nels Nielson June 27, 1935. They later moved to Vermilion to farm together with his brother Axel who was married to sister Ellen on September 27, 1937. Ellen and Axel had four children while at Vermilion. They later came back and purchased a farm in the Kelsey district where their youngest daughter was born. Nora and Nels came back to live with her brother Carl.

On December 8, 1931 I was married to Annie Kaser of East Bittern Lake. We farmed on the Solheim farm for two years, then returned to the East Bittern Lake district. We have two daughters, Grace and Sylvia.

Minnie and Evald Soderstrom

On June 28, 1928 Minnie Kaser (eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Kaser) was married to Evald Soderstrom (second son of Swan and Sigrid Soderstrom) at the First Baptist Church, in Camrose.



Evald Soderstrom family, 1960. Roger, Florence, Sandra, Herbert, Evald, Minnie.

They settled on the Swan Soderstrom home place, Armena. Their children; Herbert born May 5, 1929, Florence November 18, 1930, Roger March 1, 1932 and Sandra April 16, 1947. All the children were baptized and confirmed at Scandia Lutheran Church at Armena. All got their public school and junior high school at Busk and Armena schools.

Herbert married Margaret Strilchuk of Round Hill on October 24, 1952 having Wade, Wendy, Lanc and Lori in their family. Herbert was always interested in oil drilling and became Superintendent of Loffland Drilling Co. He passed away on January 30, 1979 from a heart attack.

Florence finished her education at Camrose Lutheran College and on to University becoming a teacher and taught at New Salem, Dorenlee and Wetaskiwin. She married Fred Stone, an engineer, on December 30, 1952. Fred worked on Can-ol Pipe Line and also in Regina later moving to New Zea-



Municipal Councillors 1942 or 1943. Left to Right: Nels Grue, Russell Bowes, E. S. Soderstrom, Phil Link. Sitting: D. M. B. Omond, Walter Marler, Andrew Haugen.



Hans Mortenson and his sheep and Roger and Herbert Soderstrom — 1934.

land. To them were born; David, Catherine, Robert, Richard, Mary Louise and Carolyn.

Roger was married on July 23, 1960 to Lois Walker, a teacher from New Brunswick. Roger received his B. Ed and Master Degree as an Executive Assistant for Historical Resources of Alberta Culture. Roger and Lois lived in Edmonton where Lois continued teaching, specializing in French. They were blessed with two boys Erik and Carl. Roger was taken suddenly in a car accident October 18, 1980.

Sandra was a stenographer. She married Robert Leeson in Saskatoon on July 19, 1975. she serves with her husband Pastor Bob Leeson at Wynyard, Saskatchewan. They have Patricia and Robert to bless their home.

During Evald's busy farm life he managed the Armena Baseball Club for fifteen years. He also served on the Municipal Council for many years and was chairman for United Grain Growers for twenty-five years. Evald was called away suddenly in a tractor accident August 18, 1971.

Minnie was Armena News Correspondent for twenty-seven years for the Camrose Canadian. She also served as president of the Armena Willing Workers, formerly Busk Sewing Circle, for fifteen years.

The Soderstroms were faithful members of the Scandia Lutheran Church.

After Evald's death Minnie sold the farm and moved to Camrose where she now resides and enjoys a very active life being involved in various groups.

The Charles Soucy Family

Charles and Gayle Soucy with their children, Michael aged four and Diana aged two, moved to Armena from Bentley in November, 1970. Charlie was employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool, so they



Soucy family. Michael, Diana, Gail, and Clarke.

moved into the house owned by the elevator company.

Keenly interested in sports, Charlie participated in hockey and softball. He played hockey with the Wetaskiwin Colonels in 1970-71; the Camrose Maroons in 1971-72; and the Camrose Blues in 1972-73. He helped organize the Armena softball team with Dick Skaret as the coach. The uniforms were purchased from proceeds made from a raffle of twenty dollars. As a member of the Armena Recreation Board, Charlie also assisted in the construction of a food booth and the upgrading of the ball diamond. He also helped organize the parade (complete with the Camrose County Band) and ball tournament held in July of 1973. Coaching the young people in hockey



Mike's birthday party, August, 1973, age seven years. Back Row: Gary Balcom, Michael Soucy, Brent Lyseng, Jim Thronson, Shelly Lovrod, Diana Soucy. Front Row: Jason Lyseng, Marcy Thronson, Shauna Lyseng, Sherri Lovrod, Lorraine Nichols, Yvonne Nichols.



Armena boys: Jimmy Thronson, Gary Balcom, Jody Quickstad, Karl Skaret, Michael Soucy.

and ball also interested Charlie. When he coached the Armena PeeWees, the team won the County Hockey Championships in 1972.

Gayle also got involved in Community life in Armena. She helped teach Sunday School, worked in the booth at ballgames and also worked part time in the Armena General Store. Only once did she manage to cut the end off her finger in the meat slicer.

Michael and Diana enjoyed life in Armena. There were many children their age to play with. Winter found them, the Balcom kids and the Thronson kids climbing the big snow bank between their house and Nisi's or ski-dooing with their dads. Michael started school in September with Mrs. Irene Moore as his teacher. He also played hockey with the Armena Squirts and attended Sunday School. Diana also went to Sunday School. She enjoyed having tea with Mr. and Mrs. Nisi and listening to the "big girls" (Susan Balcom and Joanne Stapley) talk of the latest antics at school.

In August of 1973, the Alberta Wheat Pool at Irma was in need of a new agent, so the Soucys left Armena and moved to Irma where they still reside.

The Francis Spruyt Family

by Francis

My wife Corey and I were both born in Holland and came to the Coronation district of Alberta in 1952. I worked for the Department of Highways for nine years.

In 1966 we purchased a farm in the Armena district from Henry and Lefty Wolfe and together with our five girls and four boys, we went into dairying. By 1980 however, the children had grown up and were not very interested in dairying so we sold the cows.



Spruyt family. Elizabeth, Joan, Trudy, Carla, Jim, Adrian, Cory, Maureen, Francis holding Henry, Donald.

What happened on our place? Many things, one of which was the episode with the pony. Our kids got to the age where they wanted to have a horse to ride so we located a nice little pony at Reynold's Grocery Store. He said "Try it out!" so Dad had to play cowboy. I got on the pony in the yard and thought I was really a success until the little pony all of a sudden lifted her hind legs and sent me flying through the air. I landed on my rear-end which was sore for the next week. Needless to say, the pony ended up again at Reynold's Grocery Store, not on the shelf though!

Corey and I have made two trips back to Holland and last year, Maureen and I went. It was Maureen's first trip and she enjoyed it immensely.

Elizabeth, our eldest child, is employed and lives in Edmonton. Joan, Mrs. Clement, is working on her Master's degree in hair-dressing. Trudy, Mrs. Quimet, lives in Edmonton. Carla, Mrs. Gerber, lives at Rosalind and has given us our first grandchild. Maureen is employed by Alberta Government Telephones in Edmonton. Jim lives in Lougheed and is apprenticing for a mechanic. Adrian lives in Edmonton where he is employed by the United Farmers of Alberta. Donald lives at Red Deer and Henry, our youngest child, lives at home and is taking grade eleven at Camrose Composite High School.

Now that I have no, or very little, chores to do, I am enjoying building Dutch windmills.

Staboe

Mrs. Odden Staboe, wife of Oscar Staboe's father, homesteaded the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-48-20-W4 on March 27, 1902. She had a family of three boys and five girls, namely Hans, Ole, Albert, Gertie, Nettie, Karen, Bertha and Julia. Not all of the children came with her from Minnesota.

Mrs. Staboe was a very capable midwife. She delivered many babies in the community. She also helped cook at weddings and other functions.

Her daughter Karen married John Nelson from Bawlf. Their marriage was performed at Scandia Church.

Nettie married Nels Prestlien and lived in Hughendon.

Gertie, Mrs. Gilbertson moved to Armstrong, British Columbia where she cared for her uncle Christopher Hanson until his passing.

Mrs. Staboe sold her farm to Sebastian Zeller Sr. in 1914. She moved to Hughendon where she spent the rest of her days living to be almost 90 years of age.

Mr. Staboe had purchased the C.P.R. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 19-48-20 which was just across the road from the homeplace. He did a master job of building a log barn there which was still standing in excellent condition when Wilson's purchased the farm in 1974.

Mr. Staboe sold his farm to Theodore Thronson and moved to Armstrong, British Columbia, where he lived to be in his 80's.

Anton Stavne Family

Anton Andrew Stavne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stavne, was born on July 29, 1883. He was reared on a farm, where he grew to manhood, at Dalton, Minnesota.

Anna Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Trand Iverson, was born on August 16, 1882. She was raised at Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

On June 28, 1901, Anna and Anton were united in marriage. Arthur Theodore, their first son, was born on October 20, 1902, at Dalton, Minnesota.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stavne.

Anton and Anna, their son Arthur, Anton's parents and a brother and his wife, Pastor and Mrs. John Stavne, immigrated to Alberta in July 1903. On August 27, 1903, shortly after their arrival at Round Hill, Anton and Anna's first daughter, Clara Sophie, was born.

Anton Stavne settled on a homestead claim near Round Hill, but, due to unsatisfactory land conditions, they cancelled that claim and filed on a claim in the Lake de May district in 1904. Three children were born to the Stavnes while they farmed at Lake de May, Raymond Henry, born April 7, 1905, Amanda Kristine, born December 15, 1906, and Vernon Milford, born October, 1908. Amanda passed away at the age of one year ten months and was laid to rest in the Lake de May Cemetery.



Mrs. Anton Stavne and daughter Amanda.

When the Stavne children became school age, they attended the Lake de May School. As there were no churches in the area, schools and homes were used for the church services.

In the spring of 1918, they sold out and moved to Armena. Raymond and Vernon attended the Thordenskjold School. Clara and Vernon were choir members for a number of years in the Scandia Church Choir. The family attended church services and all four Stavne children were confirmed at Scandia Lutheran Church.

Art, Raymond, and Vernon worked at home, on the farm, until they married and established homes of



Clara Stavne (back left), Raymond Stavne (centre), Arthur Stavne (back right), Vernon Stavne (front).

their own. Clara remained at home and at an early age had taken over the household duties due to her mother's failing health. Mrs. Anna Stavne, after a lingering illness, passed away, April 3, 1927 at the age of forty-four years.

Arthur, who remained single, took a course in mechanics and was employed with the different firms in Hay Lakes. Later, he lived and farmed on his land, five miles north of Camrose, and did repair work on motors at his home for the surrounding area.

Raymond married Bertha Grue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Grue of Hay Lakes, on August 4, 1938 and are residing on their farm near Hay Lakes. They are members of the St. Joseph Congregation where they are very active.

Vernon married May Hamilton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Hamilton of Bittern Lake, on June 20, 1934. They reside on their farm in the Camrose North area. They were active members of Bethlehem Congregation and are now active members of the Kingman Lutheran Church congregation. May has been a long-time member of the Armena Willing Workers. (also see Stavne, Vernon).

Clara remained at home most of the time, with the exception of a few months spent in Edmonton helping out at various homes after her mother's passing. On July 10, 1944 she was united in marriage to Joseph Miller of NE Hay Lakes. Joe, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Miller of Hay Lakes, was born on November 7, 1900, when his family lived at Long Island, New York. As a young man, he loved sports, especially baseball and big game hunting.

In 1945, Joe and Clara sold their farm in the Hay Lakes area and purchased the Stavne farm near Armena. They farmed there until Joe's sudden passing on January 15, 1962, at the age of sixty-two years. He is buried in the Scandia Cemetery. Clara continues to live on the farm and has the land rented out.

Joe had had a previous marriage. On September 12, 1925 he was married to Tilly Zeisman of South Cooking Lake. Tilly and Joe made their home on a farm in NE Hay Lakes and on February 28, 1938 Tilly passed away. Three children, Donald, June, and Marilyn had been born to this union.

Donald Joseph was born March 14, 1927 at Hay Lakes. On June 5, 1951, Don married Jean Grue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Grue of Camrose. Don and Jean live at Salmon Arm, B.C. where Don is in the oil trucking occupation. They have a son, Howard, and a daughter, Laurel, both married and living in British Columbia.

June Anne Marie was born July 25, 1930. On July 2, 1950, she married Lester Lomnes, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bert Lomnes of Armena. Lester and June reside on the Bert Lomnes farm near Armena. They have three children, two girls Lynn and Cheryl, and one son, Donovan; Lester and June have three grandchildren also.

Marilyn Louise was born August 30, 1936 at Hay Lakes, and grew up in the Suletselma and Armena districts. She married Knut Skarstol of Calgary, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stean Skarstol, on May 20, 1961. They reside in Calgary, N. W. Marilyn and Knut have a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Sonja, both attending school in Calgary. Marilyn is a registered nurse and is employed by a Calgary hospital. Knut has an accounting firm.

Mr. Anton Stavne passed away March 18, 1951, at the age of sixty-nine years. He had retired to Camrose shortly before his passing. Mr. and Mrs. Stavne are both buried at Scandia Cemetery at Armena.

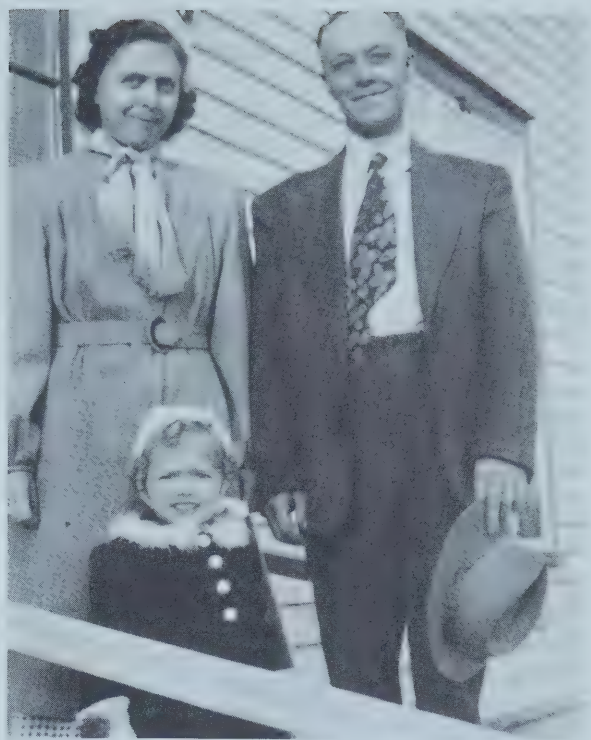
Raymond Stavne

Raymond Henry Stavne was born at Lake De May on April 7, 1905, a son of Anton and Anna Stavne. He, with his parents, brothers Arthur and Vernon and sister Clara moved to the Armena district in April 1918. It was there Raymond grew to manhood and was engaged in farming with his father and brothers. Raymond received his education at Lake De May and Thordenskjold schools.

He served as janitor for Thordenskjold also Scandia Church for a number of years. He attended the National Barber College in Edmonton at the age of eighteen. He started cutting hair at the age of fourteen and has had regular customers ever since.

Raymond helped his father farm until 1938. On August 4, of that year he married Bertha Grue, Simon Grue's elder daughter of Hay Lakes. She was born on September 14, 1912.

Bertha and Raymond made their home one mile



Bertha, Raymond, and Sharon Stavne — 1951.

south east of Hay Lakes located N.W. 32-48-21-W4 neighboring Bertha's home place where they were engaged in mixed farming and they still reside.

To their union one daughter Sharon was born March 10, 1948. She received her education in Hay Lakes, Camrose Lutheran College and University of Alberta. She taught school in Round Hill.

On August 8, 1970 Sharon married Donald Anderson, a son of August and Ethel Anderson of Edberg. Don was an electrician so after their marriage they lived in Camrose for about five years. He then purchased a farm four miles north west of Edberg where they are engaged in mixed farming. They now reside there with their family of three, Kelly, Darcy and Twyla.

Vernon and May Stavne

Vernon, the youngest son of Anna and Anton Stavne, was born in 1908 at Lake Demay and moved with his parents, two brothers, Arthur and Raymond, and one sister, Clara, to the Armena district in 1918.

His early schooling was taken at Thordenskjold School and later he enrolled at the Camrose Lutheran College. Music and singing played a large part in the lives of the young people in those days and that was true of Vernon. At an early age, his interest in singing led him first into the Junior Choir of Scandia Church of Armena and later into the Senior Choir, quartets,

and duets. Vernon also had a liking for carpentry work that proved very beneficial through the hard times.

In June, 1934, Vernon married May Hamilton, daughter of Alex and Janet Hamilton, and we settled on a rented farm for the first year. Farming proved to be a disaster for us new beginners that years. Being last on the threshing run, our crop was snowed under; the stooks had to be dug out of two feet of snow so we could feed our four cows and four horses. Half a day of hard work yielded only half a load of bundles.



Binder days — Vernon Stavne.

On April 26, 1935, a wee bundle of joy came to our house; our first child, Lorraine, was born. When she was two months old, she was baptized by her uncle, Pastor John Stavne, who had come from Seattle, Washington for a summer holiday.

We had lived on two rented farms when the saying, "Crime doesn't pay, neither does renting", came to mind. Vernon went carpentering and since the Armena School was then under construction, he worked with Mr. Brown, the contractor, until it was completed. He was then asked to move, with the crew, to the next job, a school at Cardston. While there, Vernon boarded with the Brown family. He worked with Ole Olafson of Hay Lakes for two years before doing carpentry work on his own for several years. In December, 1943, we bought the D. Davidson farm in the Lundemo district; NE¼ 29-48-20 W4. Here was good soil, Mr. Davidson had only sold seed grain, and it was in a good area.

The kindness of all our neighbors was felt that first evening we were here. Lars Maland, a real "Mr. Fix-it", was never too busy to help a fellow. Neighbors and friends with several tractors, seed drills, and other machinery came and seeded the fields, in only two days, when Vernon had to be in the hospital for an operation.

Our church membership was transferred from



Vernon Stavne family, 1954. May, Merrill, Lorraine, Vernon.

Scandia to Bethlehem of Camrose North where we worked and supported them in their activities until fire destroyed the church. We then took membership with the Salem Kingman congregation, as did several of the other families.

Since Lorraine was in grade three when we moved here, her schooling was continued at the Thronson School. When the pupils were later ready to start high school, a bus was not available so a cattle truck conveyed them there and back. That school bus was really appreciated when it finally arrived!

After graduating from grade twelve and a commercial course at the Camrose Lutheran College, Lorraine accepted a job with the Calgary Power Company and was there for sixteen months. A term at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute was taken before Lorraine went on to take nurses' training at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. After attaining her R. N. in 1959, she continued her nursing at the hospital she trained in.

In October, 1959 she married John Wight and they settled on John's farm in the Hughenden district. They have four children, David, Laurel, Mark and Nelson. John and Lorraine's children all began their schooling in Hughenden and most of their musical education is obtained in Provost.

Merril Stavne, our only son, was born on Canada Day (July 1), 1948. His early school days were spent at Armena. Following the completion of grade one and looking forward to two months of holidays, he took his bike down the hill by our place, skidded, and fell, breaking his wrist quite badly. They slowed him down considerably for the remainder of the summer.

In 1961, while he was attending junior high school, the Camrose Chamber of Commerce sponsored a "Name the Dam Contest". Out of eighty-



Somebody is getting his goat!

eight suggested names, Merrill's suggestion of "Mirror Lake" was chosen the most suitable.

Merril took his grade nine and three years of high school in Hay Lakes, graduating in the spring of 1966. Two years of junior college were taken at the Camrose Lutheran College and one full year at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. To help finance his university expenses, he worked during his summer holidays in Jasper for the Columbia Icefields Snowmobile Tours and the Maligne Lake Resort.

Since becoming a teacher, Merrill has taught for two years at Hay Lakes, one year at Kingman, and three years at Round Hill. Over the next years, evening credit courses were taken to enable him to complete four full years of university training.

While teaching at Hay Lakes in his first year, he met and married Joan Bjorge of Bawlf, who was also in her first year of teaching. They have two boys, Aaron and Robb, both attending school at Hay Lakes. Merrill is presently teaching at Sparling Elementary School in Camrose.

Pastor and Mrs. John Stavne

Pastor and Mrs. John Stavne settled in the Ferry Point district in 1904, where they helped in organizing the Ferry Point Church and congregation. He became their first pastor and served there until 1907. At that time they moved to Seattle, Washington where Pastor John served for many years.

Pastor and Mrs. Stavne had six children, three born in Canada and three born while serving in Washington.

Mrs. Stavne passed away in 1935 and her husband, John, passed away in 1942.

John's parents, who had accompanied him and his brother to Canada, didn't establish themselves in Canada. They resided here only a short time before

retiring to Seattle, Washington. They made their home there until their passing.

The Albert Stollery Family

At the end of August 1946, the Stollerys arrived in Armena and headed for the Abel Lyseng farm, lock, stock, and tractor. There were seven of us, green as grass, but happy to leave the big city behind for life in the country.

Bert had been born and reared in the city and was a plasterer by trade. I was a country girl, glad to get back on a farm.

Our neighbors were wonderful. Martin Lyseng taught Bert to farm. He also told Bert that he would never be a farmer unless he learned to chew "snuse". Marvel Skaret showed us how to stook although we never could do it as fast as he did! Dick Erickson and Klemmet Lyseng started our pump engine more times than I can count. It usually refused to run as soon as Bert left for his job in the city, to earn a little money to help us get started that first year.

Jean, Dave, John, and Joan either walked or drove to school the first two years. They didn't however drive for very long. Jean felt so sorry for the horse, that, the boys soon found they could walk faster than they drove. Bert soon got tired of fixing either the buggy or harness. The drivers weren't too experienced!

The children found that walking could be fun. In summer they walked on the barbed wire fence over



David, Jean, John, Joan, Tommy, Elizabeth, Billy Stollery.

the creek (and sometimes fell in), kicked their empty lunch buckets (syrup pails) home at night, listened to the birds, and picked many flowers. In winter, however, it was a different story and we were all really glad when bussing started. The first few winters we were here, it was really cold, often -40°F , with deep drifts.

We weren't used to coal oil lamps and wood heaters and we worried about fire. Not long after our arrival, the men in the district began to think about Rural Electrification and the Armena R.E.A. was formed. We were delighted and did all we could to help. Once it was organized, Bert was Treasurer and collected the down payments. That is the only time in my life that I ever saw a \$1000.00 bill. It was on a long weekend and we were quite worried as we had collected a few thousand dollars, mostly in cash. What a relief when we got it all safely in the bank on Tuesday morning. When the power was finally turned on, it was such a lovely feeling to see lights in the houses and yards where, before, all had been dark.

About this same time, we got to know Vernon Lyseng and his wife, Alice. What friends and neighbors they turned out to be. Vernon and Bert worked together for many years and our families have been close friends. Our son, David, and their son, Nolan, are still working together. We miss Vernon very much and I don't know what I would do without Alice.

We women also had some wonderful times together. One fun thing we did was to go "Gallopings". Some of the neighbors would turn up early in the morning and you all went, as you were, to another neighbor's home for coffee. She gave you whatever she had in the house for lunch and you gave her 25¢, which went towards the particular church fund that needed it, at the time.

Mary Grue, Olga Erickson, Florence Lyseng, Dagne Lyseng, and myself also got together and cleaned house. Mary made the coffee and lunch and the rest of us cleaned. What fun we had and how quickly the work got done!

Mary and I had baking days at each others homes. We made buns, donuts, and pies and, by the end of the day, we would have enough food baked to last for quite awhile, in spite of the number of hungry mouths.

When we arrived in Armena, we had five children, Jean, David, John and Joan, our twins, and Elizabeth. The first Sunday we went to church after we had settled in, Dick and Olga Erickson, on the spur of the moment, asked us for Sunday dinner. They had already invited the Robert Lysengs and Grandma Lyseng, and they were getting seven more.

Can you imagine anyone today asking fourteen people for dinner, in a small house, when there were already four people living there? We had a lovely dinner and a wonderful time. Thank you, Olga.

A year after we arrived, our second set of twins were born. We began to wonder how we could make our three-roomed house bigger. We decided finally, to literally "raise the roof". We sawed through the roof, three-quarters of the way along the ridge, and then Bert and I jacked that part up. We put two rooms upstairs and then had lots of room for our growing family. In the mean time, we had babies in the kitchen, beds in the living room, and the bedroom was full. We had a hired girl, Ruth Undin, to help me at home when Bert was away working in Edmonton. Ruth really wasn't a hired girl, she was more like a friend and still is.

About this time, Florence Lyseng arranged a baby and pantry shower for us. Hazel Lyseng came over and helped me cook for the threshers. How did we ever manage to come to live in such a wonderful district?

Oil was discovered here and in 1953, we started building a new house. We were able to move into our home in the spring of 1954. Bert's mom came to stay with the children and Bert and I went on our first holiday in our twenty-two years of married life. It was wonderful and since then we have travelled as often as we could.

Our children made good friends in Armena and Camrose during their school years. They are now all married and live both near and farm from home.

Jean, our eldest, is married to Paul Pederson of Camrose. They live in Montreal, where Paul is Dean of Music at McGill University. They have four children, two girls and two boys. Becky, the oldest, is a university graduate in Drama and the Arts. David is a machinist and is now attending Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose. Kathy and Andrew are still in school.

Our son, David, married Marion Mills whom he met while going to Vermilion School of Agriculture. They also have four children, three boys and a girl. Dave and their eldest son, Keith, are busy farming the home place as Bert had a stroke last year. Randy works for Jim Cail Landscaping. Steven and Sharon are in school. It's nice to have family so near.

John is married to Gayle Vincent. When John met her, she was nursing in Port Elgin, Ontario. They live in Toronto where John is Vice-President of Systems for Xerox Canada. John and Gayle have two children, Trevor and Jennifer, both in school.

Joan and her husband, Dennis Marsh, live on a farm south of Looma, Alberta. Joan met Dennis when he was living with Klemmet and Florence

Lyseng. They have four children, two girls and two boys. Peg is a nurse and her twin, Pat, is in her third year of Veterinary Medicine. Don is a welder and is our only married grandchild. Wayne is still in school.

Elizabeth married David Moen of Camrose. David is a salesman and is interested in photography. He is able to turn out some very beautiful pictures. Liz works for A.G.T., doing drafting. They have two girls, Nicky and Kirsten, both in school.

Tom, one of our last twins, and his wife, Annette, run their own business, Abro Sales, out of their home in the Millwoods district of Edmonton. Tom is a Civil Engineer. They have two children, Renee, age seven, and Jeffrey, age five.

Bill, the other twin, also is a Civil Engineer but works for Dillingham Construction. He is Job Supervisor for Dillingham's, part of the construction at the new Keephills Power Plant on Lake Wabaman. He and his wife, Donna, have one boy, Jonathon, age seven.

Things have really been wonderful since we came to Armena. Good friends and neighbors make life worth while. The family all love to come back to the farm for visits. We couldn't have come to a better place to make our home. Thank you, Armena.

Stover Family by Beverly Stover

The Stover family came west in 1912 from St. Thomas, Ontario and made their home on the N ½ 16-47-20 W4. The party consisted of my father's parents James and Eunice Stover, my parents, Fred and Louise Stover, and Uncle Frank, single. They lived with the John Kennedy family until their own house was finished in 1913.

Like many pioneers who settled in the west, my family had no previous experience in farming. My grandfather had been a teamster in Norwich, Ontario. My father, Fred Stover, was a broom-maker in St. Thomas, Ontario, and my Uncle Frank was a clerk in the Hudson Bay Company store at Fort William, Ontario. Shortly after arriving they started serving Camrose in the dairy business, first named "Fairview Dairy" and was later changed to the "Stover Brothers' Dairy". The Dairy was sold in 1934 to Mr. Sivert Ness of Camrose. At the peak of their milk business they had about sixty head of purebred Holsteins. All were milked by hand twice a day, usually by the two Stover brothers and seldom with more than two extra helpers. In addition to this chore they cooled, bottled and capped all by hand, separated the cream, then drove three and one-half miles to Camrose with a team of horses to deliver the milk. Delivery of milk was made seven days a week and every day of the year, even at Christmas.



Frank Stover, Mrs. Fred Stover, Fred Stover, Mrs. Kate Crossman.

However, on Christmas Day deliveries were only to homes with new babies and to the restaurants. In general Fred was in charge of the deliveries while Uncle Frank took care of work at home. The work day was from four-thirty a.m. until eleven p.m. In addition most of the cattle feed and hay was produced on the farm. I, naturally helped with the milking, starting at a young age and was considered a speedy milker, managing seven cows an hour. My earliest recollection of the price of milk was only five cents a quart. Many transients "riding the rods" were given free milk. A dollar a day was considered very good wages, however, we often hired men for only fifteen dollars a month and they willingly worked long, long days.

One of my fondest memories of the early years was the arrival of Loveseth's threshing crew. Mr. Lars Loveseth did a lot of threshing in our community and had a huge steam engine. For me, as a young boy, it was very exciting.

Not so memorable were the atrocious conditions of the roads, no gravel, plenty of mud in the summer when it rained, and the huge snow drifts in winter. During the spring thaw we had to haul the bottled milk by sleigh as far as the edge of town where we had to transfer it to the wagon as there was poor sleighing on the streets in town. "Lots of fun!" What a tremendous change nowadays. I don't think that people are any happier now and certainly not as healthy.

I did not follow the occupation of my father. I taught school a few years until the outbreak of World War II when I enlisted to serve my country. I was a radio operator in the Intelligence Intercept Unit and held the rank of Corporal. I served for five years in Britain, Holland, Germany, and Italy. After my dis-

charge from the services I married my English bride and we returned to Camrose where I was assistant to the town secretary for a time. We then moved to the newly established town of Devon and I became the town secretary, a position I held until my retirement in 1979. Ann and I moved soon after to Saanichton, British Columbia. Our two children are both married and still reside in Alberta. David lives in Devon and works in Edmonton. Margaret and her husband live in Calgary, and have a two-year-old daughter.

Fred and Frank Stover

written by Nellie (Crossman) Blythe

It is a pleasure for me to write about my recollections of my grandparents and my uncles, Fred and Frank, the "Stover Brothers".

To the best of my knowledge my grandfather, James Haight Stover, was born in Norwich, Ontario and was united in marriage to Eunice Maude DeLong, also born in Norwich, Ontario. Their family consisted of two sons, Frank DeLong and Frederick James, and two daughters, Kate Viola and Nellie. Nellie passed away at a young age, hence I carried on the name.

In 1912, James Stover and his eldest son Frank, who at that time was the Manager of the Carpet Department of the Hudson Bay Company in Fort William, made their first trip to Camrose. They bought the farm from Mr. F. P. Layton, the real estate agent.

The following year the family moved west. While their home was being built, they lived with the John Kennedy family, south of Camrose; Brandts later occupied this home. Mr. Kennedy was the father of Mrs. Robert Hume. Mr. Cavers, father of the late Mrs. H. U. Johnstone, also worked as a carpenter on the home.

While enroute to Camrose, James Stover caught a severe cold which left him with total deafness. I recall once when Loveseths were there threshing, they blew the whistle on the steam engine and although grandfather James couldn't hear a sound, he could feel the vibrations.

I was born at their Camrose North farm home on January 13, 1915, not long after it was purchased in 1914. Dr. P. F. Smith arrived to spank my bottom, for the first and only time, making the trip with horses and cutter driven by Drew Wilson. They tell me it was a bitterly cold night.

Fred and Frank had bought the Dairy business from Mr. McNary in 1914 and operated it every day until 1934 when they sold out to Mr. Sivert Ness. It may be of interest to readers that the telephone number of Stovers Dairy was 2114. At first they had

assorted breeds of cows but eventually had a complete herd of Holsteins.

Delivering milk during the winter months was often a real hardship. Fred was in charge of the milk deliveries and Frank looked after the work at home. I recall some terrible blizzards; the roads would be blocked and a short-cut would be made across Hanson's field. Frank would stand out on the road near home, holding a lighted lantern to attract the attention of the horses so they could find their way home after delivering milk in Camrose.

I do not recall the price of milk in the earliest years but later it was ten quarts for one dollar during the winter months and twelve quarts for one dollar in the summertime. As the population of Camrose grew, they often found it necessary to supplement their milk supplies with extra milk from Clarke Hoover, Nesvold, Kubbernus, and occasionally from John Hanson.



Stover Brothers Dairy Winter Delivery.

Over the years, there were several hired men, some to help with the dairy and others to help with the farming operations.

My brothers, Gordon and Howard Crossman, my cousin Beverly Stover, and I spent most of our weekends and holidays at the farm. We worked hard in all aspects of farm life but we also had a lot of fun.

Without a doubt, the well in the milk house had the best drinking water in all of Alberta! It was a deep well and required a good bit of pumping to get it but it was all very worthwhile.

The pioneer neighbors were friendly and helpful in many ways. I recall our closest neighbor, Axel Nordstrom. Edward and Lennard Nordstrom used to do most of the building and painting for my Uncles. As a little girl, I especially liked Arthur and Della. For some reason I called Arthur, "Ho Hee". Della drove a team of mules and would often give me rides. A Swedish family named Strid lived on the Paul Berg farm. Enevolds also lived north of us. I recall hearing

they had a new baby and being it was springtime I adopted a chick and named it "Baby Enevold". Strangely though, it never grew nor did it get any feathers.

It is always interesting to capture some of the character traits of some of the neighbors. Joe Hanson was one such person. He could be heard yodelling for miles around when he was plowing. John Hanson, his father, told us that once when he came home from town Joe had tied two cats' tails together and hung them over the clothes line. Enoch Loveseth owned an airplane and often flew over the area, which always gave us quite a thrill in those days.

During the Great Depression of 1930 and on, times were very difficult and there was much unemployment. Men with packs on their backs walked the country roads or "rode the rails" from town to town looking for work and would often stop at homes asking for food, some even remaining to work on the farms. We never did have a key for the doors but the back door had a bolt to slide across, so during harvest time when these men were on the move, the bolt would be closed. They were not allowed to sleep in the barn and on a few occasions when they arrived late at night, they could sit in the house and Uncle Frank would stay up all night on guard.

Spring and summer on the farm was such a special delight for us children. We used to pick wild flowers such as tiger lilies, shooting stars, lady slippers, and buffalo beans, many of which are rarely seen today. The woods were alive with wild birds, bluebirds, meadow larks, wrens, robins, finches, orioles, sparrows, crows, prairie chickens, partridges, red-winged blackbirds, and there was an abundance of ducks on the sloughs. In the fall, the sound of the threshing machines and the bundle wagons was an experience not enjoyed by many of today's young people. The stillness of the winter nights was broken only by the humming of the telephone wires and the coyote's eerie cry answered by the howl of the farm dog. We often see a dazzling display of Northern Lights, and we all thought we could actually hear them swish.

As I reflect now, the Stovers had no social life while they operated the Dairy because of the long working hours. Grandfather was deaf and Grandmother had no neighbors call on her as she did not speak their language. It must have been a very lonely life for her but never once did I ever hear her complain. What a different life than what she was accustomed to in Ontario. She was a great cook and I don't ever recall her looking at a recipe book. Our mother and we grandchildren often visited her and kept her in touch with all our activities. She was

keenly interested in the Edmonton Grad's basket ball team.

Grandfather James Stover passed away at the farm home in 1932, at the age of eighty-nine years. Grandmother came to live with us in Camrose and passed away in 1937, at the age of eighty-nine years. Uncle Fred passed away in Camrose in 1960, at the age of eighty-one years. Aunt Louie passed away in April, 1964, aged seventy-seven years. Uncle Frank came to Edmonton to live with his sister, Mrs. Crossman. He passed away in 1967, at the age of ninety years. My mother, Kate Crossman, passed away in 1973, at the age of ninety-two years.

It would appear that hard work may have contributed to their long lives on this planet Earth.

Lars and Anna Strid

by Lily Montpellier and Esther Yeo

Dad and Mom came to Canada from Sweden in 1906. Quite an experience — coming to a strange country, not being able to speak the language and bringing six tow-headed little Swedes with them. Mom even tucked one half dozen Swedish potatoes in her apron pocket. She planted some of these every year as long as she kept up a home.

They came to the Camrose district settling south of the town where they lived for two years. A lot of Scandinavians settled around these parts at that time and Dad was forever bringing some immigrant home for a free meal and a night's lodging.

Mom often related to us about when the Grand Trunk Railway was being built right by our home. Several of the workers tried breaking in, but she



Lars and Anna Strid, 1923.

barricaded the door and when she was afraid that they would break the windows she opened the door just enough to let the Collie dog and her two pups out after them. She could hear the men yelling and running for dear life with the Collie nipping at their legs. But they did club the two pups to death but never bothered us anymore.

Dad and Mom then moved to a place south-west of Camrose and for five years pastured horses and worked out. One of the places was Yahk, British Columbia where Dad spent two years logging and then went to Southern Alberta where he worked on irrigation ditches.

For the next five years they lived on Paul Berg's farm, and it was here the children attended Baldenstein School. They didn't escape the flu epidemic of 1918, everyone was sick. Mom had two women helping out, but Erick, our half brother was very ill and was taken to the Camrose hospital where he passed away. Neighbors were wonderful though, bringing prepared meals and leaving them on our doorstep, also milking our cows. It was also on this farm Ole and three of his friends were out gopher hunting, that he was accidentally hit with a twenty-two bullet. It was lodged near his spine and the doctor couldn't operate because he was afraid that he'd be paralyzed. He still carries that bullet and he'll be eighty-three this coming October. While living on this farm Dad and the boys broke up nearly a quarter section with the horses and the old Rumley tractor.

From there we moved to the Nelson farm where we lived for five years. About six years ago Lily, Judy and I visited our old home — the house looks the same. So many memories. Arnie Johnson and his family live there now and we spent a most enjoyable afternoon with them. I can remember the many house parties and barn dances we had while living on the Nelson farm. People came from miles around to attend.



Back Row: Lily and Bob Magee, Signe and Bert Roth, Lars and Anna Strid, Edwin. Front Row: Vernon, Esther, Ernest, Judith, Roy and Annie. Spring of 1924.

In April, 1924 we moved to Smither, British Columbia, where Dad's love for high-spirited horses, especially the Clydesdale, prompted him to buy some more. Dad entered these, for three or four years, in the fall fairs with Ed and Bert driving the six-ups. He won many prizes. And Mom with her vegetable garden, bread baking and butter making walked away with her share of ribbons. Dad had a tie camp there and his prize horses hauled many a load of ties during the winter months.



Lars Strid and Charlie breaking up sod with the Rumley tractor.

Mom and Dad just couldn't forget the prairies however, and came back in 1929, settling in the Edmonton area. Dad passed away in November, 1940 and Mom in October, 1954. Only six of us are left now, out of a family of eleven. Erick, our half brother passed away in 1918, Edwin in 1965, Charlie in 1966, Signe in 1959, Annie in 1948 and Roy in 1980. Our oldest brother Olie, who farmed in the Teepee Creek area, has been retired many years and with his wife, Ethel, live in Grande Prairie. They celebrated their sixty-first anniversary last December 24 (1980). Lily lives in Edmonton, Judy in Salmo, B.C., Vernie and Esther in Fort Saskatchewan, Ernest in Ontario.

Mom's granddaughter, Bernice Lever of Toronto has written and published several paper back books in prose and one on Canadian Prisons. One book is called "Yet Woman Am I" and has a poem in it in honour of Mom with a picture on the front page. Bernice is the youngest daughter of Signe and Bert Roth.

We had a family reunion two years ago and quite often during the afternoon some one would say, "Remember when". We were left with a lot of wonderful memories, some sad and some hilarious.

John Svenson recollections by Elmer Olson

John Svenson homesteaded the SE ¼ of Section



John Svenson's house — note the sod barn.

28-47-20 W4 on October 18, 1901. He built a frame house and a sod barn on this property. Eleven acres of prairie was the only land under cultivation, the rest was in trees and scrub brush.

I recall that my father told us of an incident which he experienced one evening when on his way to visit Mr. Svenson. As he neared the buildings, he heard a shot gun blast! He cautiously made his way to the house to find that Svenson had been cleaning his gun when it accidentally went off, blowing a hole in the lower panel of the door.

Mr. Svenson left the farm about 1907. Later on, Paul Berg bought this land and moved the house to his home quarter across the road.

As very young lads, Alex and I would occasionally walk a trail the eighty rods east of our home to explore the empty house and barn. One day we discovered an old water well, covered with a wooden lid. We lifted the lid and peered down. The curbing had rotted and was partially caved in.

The Paul Berg farm was rented by Clarence Magnuson in 1933. Once while visiting there I realized this was the house with the "wounded" door. Upon examination I found that it had the original shingle

patch on it — even after all the intervening years since 1905!

Ephraim and Lila (Sundfors) Swedberg written by Lila Swedberg

Ephraim Swedberg was born in Sweden and came to Pennock, Minnesota with his family when he was eleven years old. I was born in Willmar, Minnesota. I went to school there and later taught in the County. My maiden name was Lila Sundfors. Ephraim and I met in 1919 and we were married in Willmar on May 10, 1921. We came to Canada to live where Ephraim had taken a homestead in 1911.

We lived in the Pollockville area until 1927. The crops had been good in this area of the north, where we raised mostly wheat. It was so far from Doctors and hospitals that we decided to move again and came to the Bittern Lake area, in April 1927, and lived there until in 1929 when we moved to the Camrose North area. At this time we had two little girls. June was born in Hanna and Lila in Camrose, and some years later Eric was born, also in Camrose.

June and Lila attended Baldenstein School. There were many activities there that we took part in;

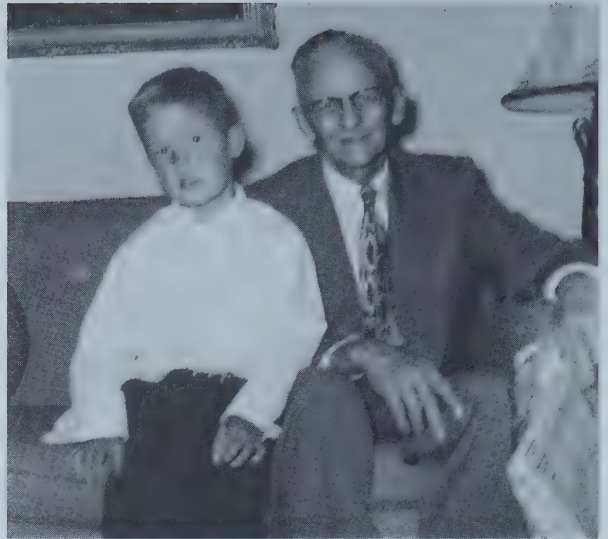


Swedberg family, 1973. Left to Right: Eric Swedberg, Lila Swedberg (Anderson), Mrs. Lila Swedberg, June (Swedberg) Gagnon.

picnics, school programs, school Festivals and school fairs, and we enjoyed it all. It seems as if closing the country schools really put an end to many community gatherings.

In 1939 we moved to Dinant, Alberta where Eric started school. June took her grade nine there and Lila was in grade six. The girls then went on to high school in Camrose after grade nine. In November 1946, we bought a home in Edmonton, a block from where the Bonnie Doon Shopping Center is now. I still live here (8314-81 Avenue) so I am close to everything. I am just a block from the Covenant Church of which I am a member. Ephraim passed away in April 1969.

Eric is the manager of Production and Manufacturing at Flame Master, and at Climate Master. He has a son Evan who attends McNally High School. His daughter Heather Lynn, is in grade eight. June, now



Ephraim Swedberg and grandson in 1957.

Mrs. Albert Gagnon, has three sons, Donald, Ronald and Terry Lechelt, and one daughter Mrs. Wendy Nolt. She also has two grandsons, Danny and Lindsey Leckelt. June and Albert operate Frenchy's Family Recreation Center in Lacombe.

Lila Swedberg, now Mrs. Anderson, lives in Calgary, has two sons John and Jeffrey and two daughters Wynne and Judy. They all live in Calgary except John, who is a professor of Business and Labor Relations at Columbia University in New York City. Lila has just recently opened a new business which she calls "Office Aids Co.", after years of managing Hollingshead Business College in Calgary.

Our favorite meeting place is at our cabins at Gull Lake, half-way between Calgary and Edmonton. . . Each year we have a special re-union on the occasion of my birthday.

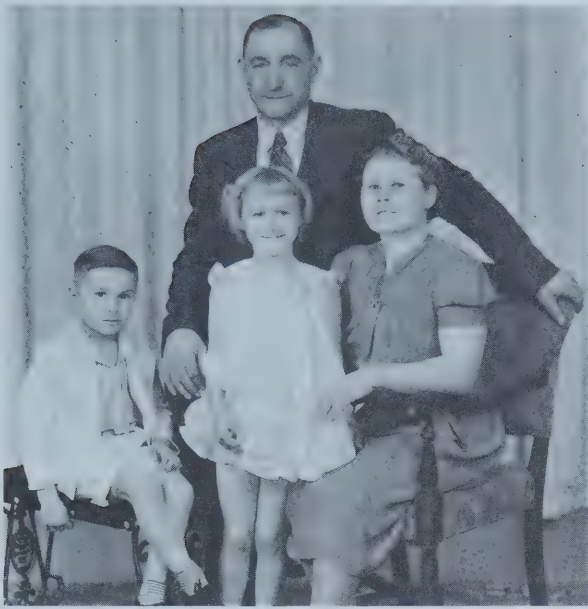
Ella Hendrickson Sylski

In 1909 Ella, the youngest of the G. O. Hendrickson children, was born. She was baptized and confirmed in Scandia Church. She received her schooling at Thordenskjold, Roars, Roosevelt High, Minneapolis and C.L.C. at Camrose. She moved to the hamlet of Armena with her parents in 1928. Ella married Walter Sylski, who was section foreman with the C.N.R. at the time. They were married in 1931.

Walter, at the age of 16, in 1914 left his family and his native Poland to seek adventure in a new country. Shortly before their ship arrived at the port of Quebec, they were informed of the out-break of World War 1. Walter came west to Alberta, purchased a Polish-English dictionary and went to work for an



Gathering at Ephraim Swedberg home on their tenth anniversary. Back Row: Mr. C. M. Nesvold, Alvin Loveseth, Ole Rosendahl, Theodore Carlson, Percy Crofts, Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Loveseth, Mrs. Alvin Loveseth, Mrs. Crofts, Lars Loveseth, Len Merrant, Mrs. Nesvold, Mrs. Merrant, ?, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Swedberg.



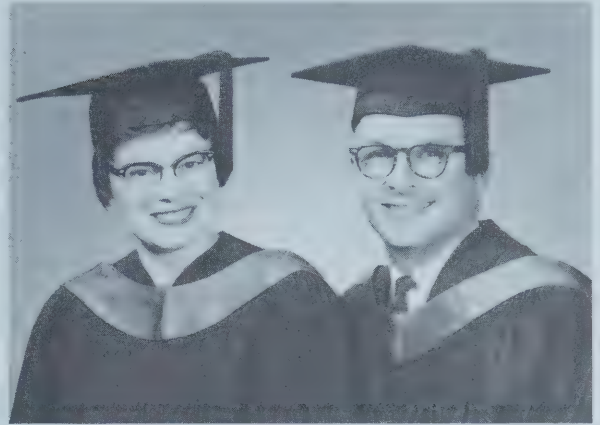
The Walter Sylyski family. Roy, Marlene, Ella, and Walter.

English speaking family, Mr. and Mrs. Ludvik Peterson of Round Hill. With the help of the Peterson's two little girls, he soon mastered the English language. After one and a half years there he decided to try his hand at rail roading, with both the C.N.R. and the C.P.R. He wrote his foreman's examination with the C.N.R. for whom he worked for 42 years, nine of those years at Armena.

In 1924, the year Alberta was invaded by tent caterpillars, Walter took the Roadmaster, Mr. McBrown, from Camrose to Vegreville by motor car. When approaching the hill at Lake Demay, the rails

were covered with caterpillars. The wheels spun so they were unable to climb the hill until sand was poured onto the rails ahead of the motor car (Speeder).

Ella and Walter had two children, Marlene born in 1931 and Roy, born in 1933. Marlene married James Gow and they are both federal government employees. They live in Edmonton and have four children: Paul, Walter, Donald and Joann.



Grace (Platz) and Roy Sylyski, 1966.

Roy married Grace Platz. They are both University of Alberta graduates, Roy has his BSC degree and Grace her B. Education degree. They have two daughters Leesa and Allison, and a son BJ. Roy is the president of the Saco Company.



Marlene and James Gow, Paul Walter, Donald, Joann.



Inga (Hendrickson) and Nels Teig.

Inga Hendrickson and Nels Teig by Thea Young

Inga, born September 28, 1905, was in the first graduating class of nurses at St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose. She obtained her R.N. degree but went on and received her Physiotherapy Degree. She practiced in Alberta, then went to California. She married Nels Teig, a building constructor and they live in San Diego, California. Now retired they pursue hobbies and are active in the Lutheran Church nearby.

Thore and Marit Thronndson Gleanings from among the family

The forebears of the Thronndsons had emigrated from Valdres, Norway to Wisconsin, U.S.A. in the 1840's. In about 1867 the family, including Thore (born February 25, 1842) homesteaded near Lansing, Iowa. It was there that Julia, Theodore, and John were born to Thore and his wife, the former Marit Bakken, born September 25, 1844. Due to some crooked work by "land sharks" they lost their home

at Lansing; so in about 1876 they moved on in a covered wagon, leading a cow behind, to Afton township, north of Brookings, South Dakota, a distance of approximately three hundred and sixty miles. They all slept in the wagon box. The space was limited so John being the smallest (less than a year old) had to sleep between his parents. Stories are that he complained loudly about being squeezed. Here at Brookings the Thronndsons completed their family with Lena, Sophia, Anton and Thorvald.

It was not until about 1860 that the Canadian government realized that there was fertile land in the west. Until then it had been thought to be a barren region similar to the North American desert. The Canadian government and the Canadian Pacific Railway, which owned much land, advertised widely the good, cheap, land available in Canada as well as government assistance of various kinds to settlers.

This appealed to the residents of Minnesota and the Dakotas, including the Thronndsons, as the crops had been poor and they had suffered under difficult



Thore Thronndson family — before 1901. Back Row: John, Theodore, Sophia, Lena, Julia. Front Row: Thore, Thorvald, Anton, Marit.



Throndson home, first Thore, Marit and family later Anton, Mary and family.

circumstances. Also the boys were old enough to want their own land. Their homesteads on the Red River Reservation were boggy and of poor quality land.

Theodore, being the eldest son, it fell his lot to explore this new land which supposedly had rich soil, lots of trees, and a moisture belt. In the spring of 1901 he set out for Wetaskiwin, North West Territories. Somehow he found his way from Wetaskiwin (which was the end of the rail at that time) eastward, and found land as far north as it was then available.

By courtesy of the map issued by the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, June 18, 1917 we quote:

	Land location	Date of entry	Date of Patent
Theodore	N. E.		
	20-48-20-4	26/04/01	27/06/05
Thore	N. E.		
	28-48-20-4	17/04/02	06/07/06
Anton	S. W. 28-48-20-4	26/04/01	27/07/05
John	S. E. 28-48-20-4	26/04/01	31/08/06
Thorvald	N. W.		
	22-48-22-4	21/02/02	12/06/08

According to this Theodore applied for homestead rights on land for Anton, John and himself on April 26, 1901. He returned to Brookings to help with the harvest and to make preparations for the move to Canada. They loaded their few earthly possessions, household goods, animals, and farming equipment into an immigrant car, Theodore went along to care for the animals. The rest of the family followed by train.

When they arrived at their homesteads after fording the Gwynne Valley and fighting hungry mosquitoes, their first concern naturally was a house. They built their home on the N.W. 21-48-20-W4, a C.P.R. quarter which Thore purchased. The next job was to begin clearing the land the hard way, of course, axe and manpower. Later they purchased a

Watrous steam engine from George and Frank Cail which was used for sawing lumber, building roads, and clearing land.

In late winter or early spring a group of men, the Throndson brothers, Carl Anderson, Minech Jorlin and perhaps others would set up camp in the wooded area north of Miquelon Lake and there they would cut logs and saw lumber for buildings on their homesteads. One such time while moving the steamer and sawmill home, it was getting late in the spring. One could hear sounds of cracking ice as Theodore maneuvered the rig across the lake.

Anyone who knew the Throndson boys would agree they all had a hankering for teasing, and not even their mother was exempt. Butter was not plentiful in the Throndson home in the early years. Consequently, Marit would not always put butter on the table at mealtime but would save it for guests. One day when there was no butter on the table the boys were up to their tricks. Looking southward toward the road, which wound around the slough, one of the boys said, "Der kjem en mann over sluen!" ("Here comes a man over by the slough!") Marit hurriedly gathered up her big skirt and shuffled off to the kitchen returning with a dish of butter.

One time Thore became ill with pneumonia. The closest doctor was at Duhamel which was a distance of twenty-five miles. John took a team from spring's work and drove in the buggy to fetch the doctor. When he arrived at Duhamel he learned that the doctor had gone to Wetaskiwin the previous day. They assured him that he would be back unless he would stop at Rosenroll (a stopping place at the south end of Bittern Lake). There was a hotel there and Doc. had a habit of frequenting such places.

John waited until three or four in the morning, yet the doctor hadn't returned. He hooked up his horses and drove to Rosenroll. There was no sign of the doctor there so John drove on to Wetaskiwin and there he was. When he learned of John's reason for hunting him down he told John to go ahead because his was a faster team. This was the second day. John arrived at Rosenroll and waited but the doctor didn't show up, so he went on to Duhamel thinking they must have missed one another somewhere but still no Doc. He arose early the next morning assured that the doctor must be at Rosenroll because he always stopped there, he returned there another seven or eight miles distant. Just before he got there he spied a team and buggy stuck in a mud hole. It was the doctor. Yet he had to return to Duhamel for medication. He left his rig and came with John. (Who got it out of the mud later, John didn't know.) On the afternoon of the third day they finally arrived at Thore's bedside and were very relieved to find him

improved in health. It was Theodore's turn and a fresh team to bring the doctor back to Duhamel.

Another time Thore bruised his ribs and the boys went for the doctor. There were no roads, only trails between the farmsteads and at least two gates with very cumbersome rails at each place. On their return trip, while almost devoured by mosquitoes, they counted thirty-four gates and numerous mud holes.

As more settlers came and the land was put into crops the demand for threshing outfits grew. At one time the Thondsons owned and operated two steam outfits. The Watrous engine sported two whistles of different tones. As engineer, Theodore enjoyed demonstrating his musical abilities by playing the tune, "There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight."

But the whistle really had a purpose besides entertainment which added a little merriment for the hard-working crew. It was used to summon the men to work. It's code was one long whistle for rowing the men from sleep; to get up and get their horses fed and harnessed. One long blast was also blown for starting to toss the bundles into the machine. Three longs alerted the water-monkey that water for the engine was needed. One long and a series of shorts meant the grain tank need replacement. When the bundle haulers got behind time a series of shorts were sounded. Stops were just a peep on the whistle. The most welcome sound was the long dinner whistle and also for supper time which meant food and rest for man and beast.

At first it was only stack threshing which continued sometimes until Christmas time. Stacking required expertise as the bundles were piled into huge beehive shapes. This protected the grain from the rain and snow. There was a bit of competition among the neighbors as to their ability to build shapely, weather proof stacks. Many of the best stackers worked on their knees without a fork. This required extra skill by the one who pitched the bundles up to him. Husband and wife usually worked together as a team. Woe betide the one who didn't handle the fork properly, that is, if the bundles came the wrong way and hit the stacker full force in the back of the head with the butt end of the bundle. Many a woman at such times had a secret longing to exchange places with her neighbor's wife.

Later on with stook threshing there were enormous crews consisting of eighteen men and sixteen teams. The men worked hard and ate heartily, keeping the ladies on their toes preparing huge meals. There are many fond recollections of fun and tricks which made the work light. A nostalgic era of our history passed when the steamers were replaced by gasoline tractors.

The Thondson offspring all married except Lena.

Julia married Nils Dahl (see Dahl)

Theodore married Ida Anderson and took up residence on his homestead across the road.

John married Martha Johnson and moved to his homestead.

Sophia married Minech Jornlin (see Jornlin)

Anton married Mary Skaret and he brought his bride home to help Marit, whose health was beginning to fail.

Thorvald married Matilda Grundberg and moved to his homestead.

Thore was a very kind and loving man. He enjoyed having his grandchildren on his knee and treating them to lump sugar.

Thore and Mary lovingly cared for Marit during a lingering illness until she passed away on November 9, 1916 at the age of seventy-two years. Thore died two years later on October 1, 1918 at the age of seventy-six years. They were charter members of Bethlehem Congregation and were laid to rest in that cemetery.

Theodore Thondson Family

Theodore Thondson was born August 22, 1873 in Lansing, Iowa. He was the eldest son of Thore and Marit (Bakken) Thondson. The family later moved to Brookings, South Dakota. In 1901 Theodore immigrated to Canada where he filed homesteads for his father, his three brothers as well as for himself. His quarter section, N.E. Sec. 48-20 W4 was situated approximately twelve miles north-west of Camrose, in the Lundemo district. His family's farms were in the immediate area.

In the fall Theodore returned to Brookings and once again stoked up the steam engine in readiness for threshing as he had been doing since the age of seventeen. Finishing the threshing he left for the homesteads, travelling by freight train and tending



Thondson brothers outfit threshing at Kringens.

the shipment of stock enroute. The remainder of the family arrived later, travelling by train.

Busy times were ahead — shelters to be built, land to be cleared and cultivated. Each fall the steam engine and separator were readied for threshing. At times this continued into December as farmers would stack their grain bundles to keep them dry until the threshers arrived. Miles were covered as they moved from farm to farm — as far as the Ryley area.

Meanwhile, C. J. Anderson, his wife Karin (Per's Datter) and their family — Peter, Carl, Hannah and Marie (twins), Ida and Clara, had settled on a farm two miles south of the Thronndsons.

Ida Louise Anderson was born October 8, 1882 in Worthington, Minnesota and on December 12, 1905 she became the bride of Theodore Thronndson. They were the first couple to be married in the Fridhem Lutheran Church.

In 1907 Theo and his brothers set up a sawmill. They were kept busy sawing lumber for their own needs as well as for their neighbors.

In the years to follow the Thronndson family grew and by 1927 Ida and Theodore were the parents of four sons and six daughters.

Their sons were Lennard, Vernon, Chester and Wilbur. Their stories follow.



Inez, Lennard, Helen, Vera, Vernon, Chester Thronndson.



Theodore Thronndson family, 1937. Back Row: Chester, Vernon, Lennard, Vera. Centre Row: Wilbur, Doris, Grace, Ida, Helen. Front: Jean, Theodore, Inez.

Inez married the Rev. Alfield Franzen who was serving as pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Later they moved to the United States where they continued in the ministry. Alfield passed away in 1966. Inez presently resides in Sioux City, Iowa. Their son Carl, and daughters Joanne, Esme, Thyra and Nancy, all reside in the U.S.

Helen married Frank Olson, a grain buyer for the Wheat Pool in Armena and later in Blackfoot. After serving in the Royal Canadian Airforce he returned to Armena where they lived until retiring in 1969. Since that time they have resided in Camrose. (see also Olson Frank)

Vera — see write-up on Algar Lyseng.

Grace married Albert Hansen and they farmed at



Theodore and Ida Thronndson in Craney's bug — out for a ride.

Hay Lakes until 1967 when they sold their farm and moved to Camrose where, along with their five sons, Albert was engaged in the construction business. Their eldest son Dean, passed away in 1971 leaving his wife Janice (Atema) and two children. Neil and Karen (Grue), Clark and Wendi (Moger), Randy and Lyn (Dahl), and Perry all reside in Camrose.

Doris married Nils Kvisle, a school teacher who was born and reared in Norway. He taught at Brandland and Meeting Creek schools before locating at their present home in Innisfail. Their daughter Lois and her husband Roy Bartsch live in Kamloops, British Columbia, Karen and Stew Woolner in Ottawa, Ontario, Hal and Diane (Newton) in Rocky Mountain House, and Kevin in Edmonton.

Jean married Tom East of Camrose. As Tom was employed in the seismic industry for many years, they lived in various communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan, finally settling in Peace River where Tom operated a mobile home sales company. Their daughter, Barbara and husband Gordon Tomtene live in Birch Hills, Saskatchewan. An infant son, Douglas, passed away in 1955. Following Tom's death in 1969, Jean took up residence in Camrose.

Theodore died at home on August 11, 1939 at the age of sixty-five years.

Ida died in Wetaskiwin Hospital on April 28, 1972 at the age of eighty-nine years. They were both laid to rest in the Fridhem Cemetery north of Camrose.

The Lennard and Eileen Thronsdon Story by Carol Clemmer

Lennard, my father, was the second child of Theodore and Ida Thronsdon. He was born November 6, 1907, at home on the Thronsdon farm, NE 20-48-20, W4, in the Pretty Hill district.

Dad received all of his schooling at the Thronsdon School, one-quarter mile from their home. Because of the short distance he and his brothers and sisters had to go, they always walked. They also went home at noon for lunch so they felt they were "jipped" as they didn't have as much time for playing.

Dad worked on the farm for his father and also for some of the neighbors, one being Jack Herron. Then, in the late 1930's, Dad went to Winfield, Buck Lake, and Alder Flats area to drive a lumber truck for his brother-in-law, Algar Lyseng.

He would load the truck with lumber at the mill site and then haul it to Etter and MacDougall's planer mill in Winfield. While he was driving here Dad met Eileen Becker, my mother. She was housekeeper for Mr. and Mrs. Etter and part-time cook in the saw mills west of Alder Flats. After they courted for some

time, Dad took Mom to Camrose where they were married on July 16, 1942.

They stayed on at the Thronsdon farm to do the farming as Wilber had joined the Navy and went overseas. While living on the farm, Dad and Mom had three daughters, Diane, Norma, and Carol.

When the war ended and Wilber came home to resume farming, Dad moved his family to the parsonage at Fridhem Church. He bought a caterpillar and cleared land, piled brush, and broke land for local farmers. We lived at the parsonage for a couple of years while Dad did this and then he decided to return to the west country. Dad moved us into one of Starr Beck's little cabins east of Buck Lake, in the Maywood district, in November, 1947.

He got a job for his "cat" at Dan Haley's saw mill and he hauled lumber to Etter and MacDougall's planer mill in Winfield with his truck. In order to keep both machines working, he hired drivers for the truck, some of whom were Walter Newman, Ray Vegan, Don Rasmussen, and the late Cordell Becker, one of Mom's brothers.

That spring we returned to Camrose long enough for Mom to give birth to their only son, Brian, on April 1, 1948. Dad had problems accepting this event as he had phoned the hospital a few days before and asked if Mrs. Thronsdon had her baby. The nurse replied, "Yes, Mrs. Johnson has a baby boy!", so Dad rushed in to see Mom and son only to find she was still waiting for the event to take place. Then when the phone call arrived on April Fool's Day to say he had a son, he sure wasn't falling for that one. While he sat waiting for what he thought to be the "real word", Mom lay in the hospital bed wondering why he wasn't coming to see her and their baby boy. After a couple of days Dad went in to see Mom to find out what course of action the Doctor planned, only to find he really did have a son on April 1.

We three girls started school at Maywood. It was a one-room school with grades one to eight. We lived about one-half mile away so some of the older children that passed our place would take us with them.



Lennard Thronsdon ready for work.

Mom felt much better about that as all the big lumber trucks travelled that road.

In 1950, Dad bought a quarter-section five miles west of Winfield, in the Poplar Valley district. He built a house and in the summer of 1951 we moved up there. Dad continued trucking, hauling lumber, pulpwood, or gravel for a couple years then sold his truck. He still had his "cat" so was clearing and breaking land. It was on a clearing job on the Micku place that the 'cat' caught fire and Dad was unable to put it out. He didn't have any insurance on it so had to go to work once again. He returned to Camrose and got a job driving 'cat' for Algar Lyseng, building and cleaning up oil well leases.

That fall Dad moved us back to Camrose to live on the Mike Connaughty place, owned then by Algar and Vera Lyseng. They lived about one-half mile north of us. As most people in this area know, the train track crosses the south end of this quarter, less than a quarter mile from the house. We were so used to hearing the train whistle, day and night, that we didn't even notice it. However, one night when Mom had let our dog, Jack, sleep in the house, the train went by sometime through the night and whistled at the crossing. Old Jack had to answer. He slept at the top of the stairs and when he let loose with his howl, we all nearly died of fright.

Another time that fear got the best of us was when an old peddler, who had followed the train track, came to our place. Mom was baking cookies (he could probably smell them baking from the tracks and figured it would be a good place to stop) and we kids were climbing trees out back. Mom called us in, with some urgency in her voice, so we didn't hesitate. When we got in, she locked the door and told us to get upstairs and hide because there was a tramp, with grey hair, long grey whiskers, and a huge pack on his back, coming down the laneway. We did as we were told, only every now and again one of us would peak out the window to see if he was still there. I don't remember how long he stayed but I know it was long enough for the pan of cookies in the oven to be burned beyond the point of recognition. Now when I think about it, he was probably just trying to sell some of his goods in his pack but you couldn't have gotten one of us to leave the house for anything.

The big slough that was to the west of the barn held many hours of enjoyment as far as skating went. One winter we had very little snow, at least until after the Christmas holidays. The slough was frozen over and as smooth as glass. We would skate to the north-west corner and then open our coats and hold them open like a cape so the wind would blow us back across. We travelled many a mile on that ice.

One very hot summer day when Dad was home,

he decided to go for a swim in the slough. Mom would never allow us kids down there; it was so dirty looking anyway that I don't imagine it took much convincing to make us stay out. However, what was good for Dad had to be good for us too, so Mom gave in and let us swim. We were in long enough to get wet when Norma stood up and we saw the biggest blood-sucker I had ever seen, on her back. I tried to pick it off but it hung right on. I don't remember for sure how I got it off but I did, and I probably scratched half of Norma's back off with it. That was enough for us, we never wanted to swim there again so Mom had no more worries about that.

We rode the school bus to Sifton School. A couple of the drivers I can recall are Mr. Moe and Mr. Sheets. Brian also started school at Sifton, while we were living here.

Dad, by this time, had started to work on oil rigs as a boiler man. He was around Camrose for a time but soon had to move with the rig. This moving took him all over Alberta and northern British Columbia. While Dad did this work, Mom started raising pigs. She stuck with it for a couple of years and had real good luck with them. However, it got to be too much for her so she sold all of them.

In September, 1956 our family was blessed with a baby girl, Della Marie. She was probably the most royally treated baby in the area. To us she was the most beautiful and most wonderful baby there could be.

Some of our close neighbors were Alex Olsons, Pete and Molly Stepanko to the east, Franksons to the south, and Algar and Vera Lyseng to the north.

The summer of 1957, Dad was working in the



Lennard Thronsdon family. Standing: Norma, Diane, Brian, Carol. In Front: Eileen, Della, Lennard.

Pembina Oil Field, around Drayton Valley, so Dad and Mom decided to move the family back to the farm at Winfield. That winter Dad spent most of his time on a Brinkerhauf rig in northern B.C., around Blueberry.

In the spring he decided to quit the rigs and he then went to work, in Edmonton, for Underwoods Construction as a mechanic. He worked there until bad health over took him in June, 1959. Dad passed away in February, 1960.

Mom still lives on the farm near Winfield where she has reared and given a home to ten foster children as well as her own family of five.

Diane married Gene Kramer, lives in Rimbey and has four children. Shannon married Gunnar Dudenhoefter and they have a daughter, Bobbie Sue. Daryl lives at home and works with his dad for Jones Construction. Debbie and Wendy are still at home and attend Rimbey School.

Norma married Darrel Mathews and they live at Port Alberni, B.C. with their four sons.

Carol married Paul Clemmer. They live at Alder Flats and have four children, Rae Ann, Richard, Rodney, and Reagan. They are all still at home, with Rae Ann and Richard in school.

Brian married Linda Melin. They live in Drayton Valley and have two children, Rodney and Tabatha. They are still at home and attending school.

Della lives in Edmonton and has a daughter, Erica.

Mom is still very active with her large garden and cutting the lawn, also very large. Last winter she started to cross-country ski and just loves it. She is out skiing at every opportunity and wishes it could be more often. The three young girls that are living with Mom are also enjoying skiing.

Mom has also taken up tin craft, string art, rug hooking, and making pictures using the styrofoam from egg cartons. She remodeled her basement, making a rumpus room, bedroom, and utility room. She has had the rumpus room finished for some time and this winter she finished the bedroom. She has a good line of tools now and is getting very handy at using them. Most of these hobbies are worked on during the winter months as she saves the summer days for outside work. She has cleaned the "under brush" out from the timber around her house so it looks like a park. She has put in a lot of hard work and time on this but I think it is what keeps her looking and feeling so young.

Vernon Thronsdon by Violet Thronsdon

Vernon and Violet Thronsdon were born in the

Camrose North and Bawlf districts, respectively. Vernon grew up on the family farm and attended Thronson School. He was very enthusiastic about sports, both as a participant and a spectator. He played baseball with the Dinant team and later with Armena; he also curled.

After our marriage we lived on NW 19-48-20. Our home, previously that of a bachelor, was very small but we managed even during threshing time. That was such a busy time with no modern conveniences to help us. It seemed that breakfast was hardly done, cows milked, separating done, pigs fed, when it was time to make forenoon coffee (sandwiches, cakes, etc.) Then, before we knew it, it was time to prepare dinner, afternoon coffee, supper, and do chores again. It was a continuous round of baking, washing dishes, and cleaning up. I was so fortunate to have the help of one of Vernon's sisters. The excitement was always present throughout harvest. If it rained then all the food had to be used up and we had to start cooking all over again when the weather was favorable.

Our four children Loretta, Janice, Larry, and Brenda were born at Armena, with Mrs. Rose Zeller delivering our twins, Larry and Janice, as I didn't get to the hospital. They later attended Thronson School and then Armena School. They rode horseback and also drove to school. Larry was a member of the Armena Boy Scout Troop. Halloween was enjoyed by the oldsters as well as the children in the district. After one Halloween, a neighbor's buggy spent the winter on our barn roof.

While at Armena we were members of Fridhem Lutheran Church. We have many memories of Sunday School picnics, conventions, long treks by horses and sleigh to Christmas practises and programs.



Vernon Thronsdon family. Loretta, Larry, Janice, Brenda, Violet, Vernon.

When Brenda was one and a half years old, we moved to a farm in the Meeting Creek area.

Later after moving to Wetaskiwin, Loretta and Janice attended Camrose Lutheran College, and Larry attended Wetaskiwin Composite High School. Brenda started school in Wetaskiwin, later graduated from there, and then attended the University of Alberta.

Loretta is working with an accounting firm and lives in South Edmonton. Janice trained as a nurse. She married Vernon Carlson, of Wetaskiwin, and now resides in South Edmonton with their two children, Valerie and Richard. Larry lives on the home farm with his wife, Fran (Dewald), daughter, Cheryl and son, Mark. Brenda married Stephen Miller of Edmonton. They have two children, a son, Jeffrey, and a daughter, Loren, and are residing in Calgary.

I still live in my house on the farm. Vernon, having had a weak heart for twelve years, passed away in May, 1974.

The Chester Thronsdon Story

by Chester and Judith

I (Chester) am the fifth in the family of ten children born to Theodore and Ida Thronsdon.

When I was old enough I went to the Thronson school and got to sit with Clifford Skogman as we had double desks in those days. He was very good to me. He even let me play with his eversharp pencil. We had some fun at school besides studying. As soon as the snow went and we could dig a hole in the ground and go in the bush to cut a couple of sticks we played "shinny". In the summer time we always played ball. I remember one day the teacher was up to bat and two of the girls (Olga and Helen) in the field yelled, "here comes the fanning-mill!" They were immediately ushered into the class-room and got their punishment. In the winter we played "fox and goose" and made butterflies in the newly fallen snow.

When I got to the age of fifteen, I quit school and helped with the farming. During the depression years I worked in lumber camps west of Winfield in the winter-time. Wages were from fifteen to twenty-six dollars a month with board and room and lice included.

In the summer time we had a meat ring in our neighborhood with twelve members participating. Each one supplied a beef and one was butchered every two weeks and cut in twelve pieces. At the end of twenty-four weeks each member would have gotten a whole animal. Each one was weighed and the difference in weight was paid at three and one half cents per pound. I did the butchering for awhile which had to be done in the cool of the evening and

after the flies had gone to bed. Then it was cut up in the morning before the flies got up. The owner of each animal had to deliver the meat. I arranged this so it was not on a ball-game night.

We had a fence-line telephone among Minech's and Antons and us during the depression. We all chipped in and paid for the battery for the radio. We had to have a radio license in those days too.

The first radio in the community was owned by Joe Ellingson, a teacher who boarded at Antons. Company came every evening to listen to the "Farmer's Program." We had to share the head-phones and be very quiet so the listener could hear the "far-away" program which was only in Edmonton.

We Thronsdons always had a fascination for steam-engines, probably because our dads had them. One day my cousin Raynold and I decided we would make one. We took an empty oil drum, fastened a discarded steam-whistle on it, poured water in it and lit a fire under it. It took a long time to get up steam but then did it ever blow! This gave us away, which perhaps saved our lives altho' we didn't think so at the time. By the time the fire was out the barrel was almost round as a ball. After that there were no more whistles to be found.

In 1937 there came a new teacher to the Thronson school. She boarded at my uncle's place across the



Cecil, Ferne, Sandra Thronsdon.

road so I could have a good look at her every day as she went to and from school.

I'll let Judith tell the rest of our story.

I am the daughter of pioneers Andrew and Ragna (Bruce) Knudson of the Earling district. Earling is the name given to the first post office in the area midway between Bawlf and Ryley.

In the spring of 1937 I graduated from Camrose Normal School and my first teaching position was at Thronson School. I had board and room at Mary and Anton Thronson's home. Their daughter Ruby and I became very good and lasting friends. It was a sad day when, at an early age, we laid her to rest.

I enjoyed my year at Thronson. There were twenty-three pupils. Very often on winter mornings it was necessary to begin the day with physical exercises in order to keep warm. It took most of the forenoon for the heat from the Waterbury furnace to get down to our level. Drinking water was carried in pail-fuls from Jornlin's and poured into a crock. We were fortunate at Thronson to have a crock with a tap from which to fill our cups. Previous to this we all drank from a common "dipper".

I taught two years at Norbo, north of Donalda. The next year I finished my teaching career at Hampton, east of Camrose.

Chester and I were married on August 4, 1941 in Skudesness Church. We made our home on the S.E. ¼ 8-48-20-W4 which the Thronsons had farmed for many years.

Our worldly possessions were a cow, who occasionally upset both milk and milker into the gutter, a heifer with frost bitten ears and tail, a team of runaway horses, a female pig and a batch of wild kittens hiding under a grain bin.

Our first year was not very prosperous. It was the year of the invasion of the Army Worms. These little greeny-grey worms marched as an army devouring everything green in their path. Such was the lot of our first garden. They were so numerous that they had to be removed from the walls of the house before the siding could be nailed on. Fortunately they have not returned.

On the first day of threshing in '41, a big truck drove into our yard and backed up to our oat bin. I, suspecting thieves, was preparing to go out and investigate when Chester drove in and informed me that the "Hart Parr" had blown up and they needed a down payment on a new tractor. That John Deere served us well.

Threshing time wasn't all hard work. One time Chester and his uncle Carl Anderson wired up the cream-can containing drinking water to an electric fencer. Robert Rasmussen happened to be the first thirsty one. When he put his hand on the cover he got

a shock so he flung the cover into the air. Not giving up he carefully dipped his cup into the water, getting another shock. Robert, always being a good sport, joined the two instigators in watching the next victim.

We, like most others at that time, had a very meagre beginning but we were happy and thankful for health and what little we had. Our happiness became more complete when on June 6, 1943, a daughter Sandra Faye was born to us. Two years later Cecil James arrived and in 1948 we completed our family with Ferne Adele.

But now our one bedroom, eighteen by twenty-two home became too small. In 1954 we built a two-storey, four bedroom house. We have many happy memories of this place. Our children were healthy and happy and growing faster than we almost wanted to accept. We were involved in church and community activities. We almost wish we could relive those days (for a short time perhaps) when our home was bustling with neighbors' kids laughing and having fun even tho' a pan of fresh cinnamon buns and a pot of hot chocolate literally vanished.

In the spring of 1956 we experienced a flooded barn and surrounding area. Our cows were moved to the vacant chicken house and milked by hand.



Wesley to the rescue of Chester's hogs, April 25, 1974.

A much more severe flood hit us in 1974. Our basement was filled to ground level with water. Buckets floating there made the ghostliest noises, especially at night, when they banged against the furnace pipes and other obstacles. Our heating system was nil except for a propane heater which we borrowed from Wilbur. This brought our room temperature to a high of fifty-five degrees F. Our water system was completely defunct so that meant double



May 1, 1974 at Chester Thronsons.

trouble. Our telephone was out of order. But what we had were excellent boating conditions — a lake just outside the door, and the best neighbors in the world.

Sandra and Ferne both finished their schooling at Camrose Lutheran College and became typists. Sandra and Bob Miller were married in 1966. They live at Hepburn, Saskatchewan, where Bob is a teacher. They have four children, Glen, Valerie, Donald and Kevin.

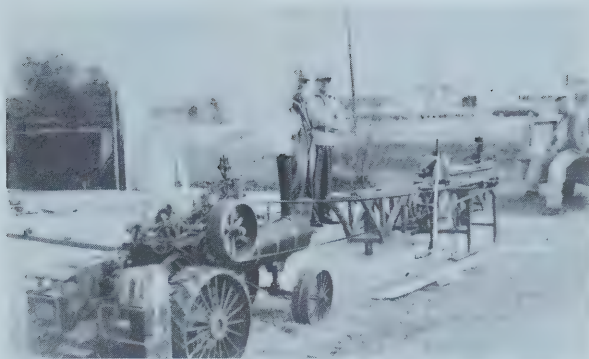
In 1969 Ferne married Jim Strob who is in Real Estate. They live in Edmonton with their children Kerri, Kathy and Douglas.

Cecil chose not to further his education at the time so he took work with his cousin Dean Hansen doing roofing. While on the job on the morning of September 30, 1966, he accidentally stepped through the chimney hole which had been covered with tar paper. The resulting fall caused the breakage of his sixth and seventh cervicles and his left arm to be broken in four places. On February 17, 1967, he returned home from the University Hospital in a wheel chair and with arm crutches.

Cecil and Susan (Cassidy) who were married in 1966, bought the Oscar Shold home in Armena. In March 1968, Cecil went to work at Miller Electric Motor Repair in Camrose. A year later he started apprenticing and attending Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. On September 15, 1976 Cecil and Susan opened C. J. Electric motor repair in Camrose which they continue to operate. They have three children Jimmy (Cecil James Jr.), Lynnette and Marcy.

We sold our farm to Henry and Sylvia Giesbrecht and their daughters Cheryl and Carla in the spring of 1975. We moved to Camrose where we continue to reside.

In 1978 we were fortunate in winning a trip to Hawaii so in the good company of George and Gertie



Chester Thronson's saw-mill and steam-engine. Looking on: Malcolm Robson and Floreen Carlson.



Chester Thronson family, August 4, 1981.

Lyseng we enjoyed sunshine in Hawaii as opposed to thirty below weather at home.

During our retirement Chester has built a one-third scale model of a sixty-five horse power steam-engine.

We have fond memories of the years we lived in the Armena district and our friends there. It was there we met, made our home and watched our children grow to womanhood and manhood. There we enjoyed good fellowship in church and community. Many of our friends have also retired to Camrose and we continue to enjoy their fellowship, but we also enjoy returning to the country for a visit.

For all this we pay tribute to our pioneers who tamed this wilderness for their descendants to enjoy.

Chester and Judith — at home on Wrinkle Street, 4814-64 Street, coffetime — anytime!

March 30, 1982: As I finish this writing I am watching the landing of the third mission of the "Columbia", this time at White Sands, New Mexico. It was the longest mission in space, eight days, eight hours, four minutes and forty-five seconds. It travelled three million miles and was one hundred and fifty miles up in space.

Wilbur Thronndson

Wilbur Thronndson served as a volunteer in the Royal Canadian Navy (overseas) from 1942 to 1945. After the services he returned to the farm until 1974, when he moved to Camrose. He is currently Yard Foreman at a local Lumber Yard. He married Kathleen Rasmussen and they have two children, Beverly and Steven. They both reside in Edmonton and Bev is married to Tim Burrell.



I am my brother's keeper. Chester and Wilbur.

Grandma's Legacy (Ida Thronndson)

by Lois Kvisle Bartsch

Amongst the most precious memories of my childhood are those associated with "Grandma". Her loving, gentle, and sensible nature allowed us many happy, peaceful and carefree times. She had an amazing ability to accept both the situation she was in and the people around her. Consequently, being with her was always a joy . . .

I have no recollection of Grandma ever speaking harshly — to me or to anyone else. And it wasn't as if there was never any provocation, for while she lived in Camrose one small girl managed to flood her bathroom with water. She never said that the incident caused her to develop a distaste for indoor plumbing, but she was visibly elated when she learned she would be returning to the farm!

The "farm" or "home-place" contained the



Ida Thronndson.

memories of her married life — of her ruggedly handsome husband and ten healthy children. Grandpa died before most of the thirty-four grandchildren were born, so most of us never knew him. But we suspected he had been very good to Grandma, for he had built her a grand two-storey house with verandahs on both floors. In that house our imaginations were fed by stories from the past. Play was enhanced by sliding down the bannister and by watching lightning storms while snuggled in blankets on the lower verandah. Home-cooked meals were served "just right" on cream-colored dishes. And in the evening, the drone of uncles' voices at the big dining room table was accompanied by the scampering of bats in the walls. Being sent upstairs to bed simply gave us a different vantage point for we would listen to and view all through the heat register!

Grandma did not restrict our adventures to the house. She introduced us to the beauty of scarlet lightning and wild roses that bedecked the pathway to the out-house. An object of considerable surprise to us one summer was a "pail shower" in the woods. And always, the cow pasture and haystacks held a special fascination. Difficult to comprehend was how the ice house managed to "keep" the ice from winter all through the summer.

The two mile walk to the white-steepled country church was a fitting prelude to worshipping the Crea-

tor. Grandma's love for God was expressed more by her loving nature than by her words. She found comfort in the Scriptures and made her family the object of her prayers.

Some years passed and the most unsentimental decision was made that Grandma should have a new house. Alas! How could that be?! Bats confined to the walls could not really be all that bad! However we needn't have worried. Grandma's presence in her new home made it as special as the old. As we grew older we appreciated the time she spent doing jigsaw puzzles with us, as well as the endless "name" games. She had much time for us but was never idle. We also appreciated her remarkable sense of humour — never was anyone made the fool in her jokes and her laughter came right from the heart.

Grandma's house was the location for the highlight of each year — Christmas Eve with the cousins. The excitement of gift-exchanging and eating delicious Scandinavian goodies was far surpassed by the fun we had with one another. A fitting climax to the evening was the Christmas Eve service at the church — crowned by a twinkling starry sky or enveloped by softly-falling snow.

When her youngest son married, Grandma decided to move into the Old Folks' Home in Wetaskiwin. Her thoughtfulness continued and never was a birthday forgotten. As if to place her blessing upon the men in the family (many of them "in-law"), she continued her tradition of giving each of them an initialed handkerchief for Christmas. Any visit to her received the warmest of welcomes and was followed by an account of who had been there last. She enjoyed serving her fellow residents in any way she could.

At the age of eighty-nine, Grandma passed away. She had lived a good life and was ready to go. But even so, losing someone so dear was not easy. She had blessed the lives of each of us. And she had left us a rare and precious legacy: in linking the past to the present she had transmitted fine Christian values. Because of her, I believe we will be blessed for generations to come. Thankyou, Grandma. (And thankyou, God, for letting her be our Grandma.)

The John Thronsdon Family by Nelvin Thronsdon

John Thronsdon was married to Martha Johnson August 6, 1913 and settled on his homestead, S.E. 28-48-20 W4. Richard was born in June, 1914.

Dad bought his first car, a Model T Ford, in about 1915. Owning this first car gave him a thrill not duplicated in owning any other car. One day he was at a neighbour's place. They had some boys there. When he was ready to go home the Model T would



John and Martha Thronsdon August, 1913.

not start. They cranked and cranked — no go! Finally one of the boys asked the question,

"How long have you had that car, John?"

He told him.

"Well don't you think it's about time that you learned to check whether or not the gas is turned on?"

Nelvin was born in 1916. This was the year Grandma Thronsdon passed away. (Marit — September 25, 1844-1916.) The authorities had been conscripting young men for the war. John Johnson was conscripted and went to Calgary to train. Grandpa Johnson became ill and passed away the next day. There was a double funeral at Bethlehem. Due to this tragedy, Uncle John was released from military training for a short time. He went back later but not in time to go overseas. Grandpa Thronsdon also passed away in 1918 (Thore — February 25, 1847-1918.) This was the year when Edith was born and word was received



Out for a ride, W. J. MacDonald and John Thronsdon.

that the Armistice had been signed and the war was over.

By 1919 Dad was driving his second car, a new 490 — 1918 Chev Touring.

Lillian was born in 1920. This was the year when an addition of basement and kitchen was made to the house. Lightning struck while they were building. A large hole was left in the roof. The rain poured in before the opening was covered with binder canvas.

As we pass over the years, we are reminded of the roaring twenties, our public school years and hungry thirties. There was a world wide depression. Grain and cattle sold for “a song”. There was an instance when tough grain was delivered to the railroad. It heated. By the time it went through the drier, the farmer was presented with a bill to pay over the value of the grain, so you see some were lucky to get their wagon home with them after making the delivery.

Farmers began to scrap their cars and make horse drawn vehicles called Bennett Buggies to honor the Prime Minister of Canada. We had a Ford front seat mounted on a front bob of a sleigh for winter travel. We took a picture of John Erikson and Dad ready for a trip to Camrose with the word “Depression” printed on the side.

Berry picking trips were memorable occasions. Farm work would be dropped for the day. A picnic lunch would be packed. Boiling coffee would be wrapped in several layers of paper from the Camrose Canadian to keep it hot. Dressed in clean, everyday clothes, away we’d go in our Chev Touring car to Miquelon or Dried Meat Lake; to pick chokecherries, saskatoons or raspberries.

The roads were hilly and steep. Dad would go sailing up and down at fifteen to twenty miles per hour. Mom would have to tell him,

“Slow down, I can’t see the berries when you drive so fast!”

Generally, picking was done on road allowances, but occasionally the temptation was too great when those luscious berries were just inside the fence. Then you would slip through the wires to get them! The general practise though, was to ask permission, and then pick with a clear conscience. The reward was shelves filled with delicious sauces, jams and jelly.

Ball games were a favorite summer recreation. The countryside would re-echo with the sounds of excited fans as they cheered their favorite team on to victory!

Edith and Lillian were catcher and pitcher, respectively, for a district softball team. Their team was successful in winning several games.

In the winter there was skiing, skating and



Richard, Nelvin, Lillian, and Edith Thronsdon.

hockey. Generally, the sloughs would be covered with snow and we were discouraged by too many cleanings. Outdoor rinks would be made in sheltered areas at Anton Thronsdon’s and Frank Craney’s farms. The water had to be hauled by horses and sleighs. The project was abandoned after a few years — too much work!

In the early years of radio, we remembered many exciting programs like Amos and Andy, Lum and Abner, Jake and the Kid, Ma Perkins, and Howy Wing. Somehow these programs were fitted in between milking, barn cleaning and feed hauling, as well as the other chores.

Community gatherings like church picnics, weddings and showers always drew good-sized crowds. Trips were often taken to Miquelon Lake to bathe and swim. There were no change houses so you would go deep into the bush for privacy; away from prying eyes. The bathing suits were very modest. The boys often used bib overalls. All did a good “cover up” job.

Paying jobs were not very plentiful. One time Edith and Lillian were hired to clean the school house. They weren’t pleased when we gave them the old team, Kate and King, hitched to a two wheeled, rubber tired trailer for transportation. Loaded down with cleaning supplies they were on their way, only to return a few minutes later. A tire had blown out with a bang! The old horses took off fast! The make-shift seat tipped backwards. The girls hung onto the lines and after a few quick steps the horses were brought under control. They were lucky not to have a wild team!

Every family spent a good part of the winter

“laying up” firewood. This meant trudging through the snow to cut and haul the trees home. There would be the sawing bees when several farmers would help each other saw the wood into stove lengths. The helpers were told to be careful, but accidents did happen.

One day when sawing for the Watlands, a man lost part of his hand in the circle saw. Old car engines were used for power. We had a Model T Ford engine. Later we replaced this with a Grey Dort car engine.

After the fall work was done we often went to Edmonton to do some shopping. One such trip was memorable. We were on a newly graded road. It was icy and our 490 Chev went into a spin. We came to a stop just inches from the edge of a high bank, facing the other way! We turned around and went on to the city. The day was warm and the road thawed out for our return journey. It was necessary to drive in low gear for six miles, on this newly graded road. Large chunks of clay kept dropping off the wheels.

Later on the Skarets travelled the same road after it had frozen. The road was so rough it shook the engine loose from its mountings. They returned home, I don't think we dared tell them that we were partly responsible for the awful condition of that road.

Another time as we passed a farm near Joseph Lake an old man and woman were picking rocks from new breaking. The fence lines were piled with stones. After a day in Edmonton we returned at dusk. This couple was still at it with team and wagon. Even at that tender age we had already picked rocks and roots and could really sympathize with them in their life of drudgery.



John Thronson family. Lillian, Richard, Edith, Nelvin, John, Martha.

Edith went through school and became a teacher. Her first school was Pretty Hill. There were more teachers than schools, so many did not get jobs.

These were the hungry thirties. Because of the widespread drought, people had to live within their means or suffer the consequences.

Nelvin suffered heart damage as a result of rheumatic fever. He had a long rest and no military training for World War II. Richard had to help keep the farm going.

We bought our first rubber tired tractor in 1941. Years before, John (Dad) and Carl Anderson were in partnership on a Waterloo Boy Tractor. This gave them so much trouble they quit using it and went back to farming with horses.

It is interesting to recall how skeptical most farmers were when rubber tires for tractors first came out. They expected the tires to spin and be cut to shreds on the rocks, and stand there slipping most of the time. Time has proven how wrong they were. Now most of the machinery rolls on rubber.

Lillian was married in 1944 to Melvin Wollen. Their family consists of four children, Carol, Shirley, Linda and Larry and now reside in Edmonton.



Melvin, Lillian (Thronson), Carol, Shirley, Linda, Larry Wollen.

Carol married Len Ewanyk on May 6, 1972. They have two lively boys, Darcy and Darren.

Shirley is an Occupational Therapist at Workmen's Compensation Board in Edmonton. She is now Mrs. Kieth Tench.

Linda is a Physical Education graduate and is employed at Vec Tannys.

Larry is employed at Datec Industries.

Edith was married in 1945 and made her career teaching other people's children. She married Ed MacDonald of Rosalind, Alberta. She has now retired from teaching.

Richard and Nelvin purchased a George White threshing machine when Wesley decided not to replace his broken down outfit. We had a small “run” for about ten years until the rest of the farmers started

using combines. After a year we too followed suit. Now about all the “stook threshing” is done for entertainment on Heritage Days.

Weather conditions changed and there were several years of bumper crops. Oil was discovered at Leduc in February 1947 and there was a widespread search for new drilling sights. A year later an oil well went wild. Eight months later the fire was put out. During its span it produced 1,250,000 barrels of crude. About a million gallons were recovered. It had burned \$50,000.00 worth of oil a day. Oil became Dad’s favorite topic of conversation, but he was never to realize the dream of easy oil money.

Throughout the years, livestock has formed an important part of the farm economy. Of course, horses were necessary until the purchase of the tractor in 1941. Hogs were a part of the progress for many years. Dual purpose Shorthorns were raised for both beef and milk. Later Charolais and then Brown Swiss were introduced for larger animals which were also quite good milkers.

Richard and Nelvin decided they were ready to part company with the cows, after being tied to them for over sixty years! (This is no reflection on the important role played by the livestock in helping develop this land.) They intend to stick to grain farming until retirement.

More time can now be spent in the workshop. With electric power, so many tools can be used in building different machines and equipment. Throughout the years these have included a post hole digger, grain augers, harrow draw bars, trailers and wagons, automatic pump shut off, furniture, photographic equipment, tools and so forth.

In 1955 neighbours and relatives surprised Dad by helping him celebrate his eightieth birthday.

Dad and Mother celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August, 1963. He passed away in September 1964, two days after his eighty-ninth birthday.

Mother passed away March 4th, 1971, at eighty-three years of age after about six months in Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose.

A fitting epitaph could be “She worked hard”. Like so many of our pioneers we can only wonder at the stamina they possessed. It wasn’t enough to do all the housework without modern conveniences — washing, baking, canning, sewing spinning, knitting, caring for the family, etc. but also the chickens, milking, helping in haying and harvest and preparing meat after butchering. In addition, work for the ladies’ aid and church related projects; and then the garden with hoeing and care which so often came as “relaxation” at the end of the busy day. We are

reminded of a saying, “Man works from sun to sun, but a woman’s work is never done”.

As we look back over the years we see that each generation has its share of world shaking events. We wonder what influences this generation will have on the conquest of the future, when man’s thoughts are intent on probing the secrets of outer space. One problem remains with every generation, and that is the battle with self. As my maternal grandfather said as he neared the end of life’s road, (even though he had lived an upright Christian life).

“I have come to see myself as I am with many shortcomings and failures.” He could only say with the hymn writer, “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling.”

This verse is in tribute to those who have gone before.

“They have not lived in vain, who having worked to till the land; with axe defrocked its hill and plain. Sod turned by plow; and weary arms guide horse and drill to plant the seed, rejoicing in the pattern formed by growing grain.

While on the meadow, busy cows feed on the luscious grass, with dreamy eyes and switching tails, watch while workmen pass. Our eyes look out, broad are the plains, we see the land transformed by those whose power was in their hands — this work to do.

Our eyes look up to seek their source of faith, for strength in our allotted time, our special work to do.”

Lena Thronndson

Lena, as the second daughter of Thore and Marit Thronndson, was born in 1878 at Brookings, So. Dakota. She attended State College, earned a teacher certificate, and taught for several years in adjoining districts.

She accompanied the Thore Thronndson family to Canada in 1901 and joined whole-heartedly in the life within the pioneer community.

When the Dahl family became ill in Washington State, she immediately went to assist her sister in caring for the family. When they were recovering, Lena herself became very ill and died in hospital, from what was diagnosed as acute appendicitis.

A cheerful person and loved member of the Thronndson family, the news of her death was received with much sorrow. Her sister, Sophie Jornlin, and Lena had been almost inseparable from their childhood years.

The Anton Thronndson Family

Anton was born at Brookings, South Dakota in 1882. He immigrated to the Armena district with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thore Thronndson in 1901.



Anton and Mary Thronsdon, January 28, 1914.

In 1914 he married Mary Skaret also of the Armena district. They resided on the original farmstead for their entire married life.

Their home was that of a typical pioneer family — always open to many visitors, friends, and passers-through.

The “kids” always had the full run of the house, with the exception of one room. We could, however, open the door and peak in at the fancy bedspread and the exquisite wash stand, with fresh towels draped



Taking coffee, sandwiches, cake, and cookies to threshers at Anton Thronsdons.



Anton Thronsdon family. Wesley, Lyle, Allan, Ruby, Mary, Anton, Raynold, Gerald.

over the back, holding an untouchable wash basin and water pitcher. This room was the “Teacher’s Room” and was reserved for the teacher of nearby Thronson School.

Mary and Anton had seven children Reynold, Ruby, Wesley, Stanley, Allan, Lyle, and Gerald. One might conclude that there was seldom a dull moment. With the many pranks, practical jokes, and other unorthodox activities that went on this conclusion would certainly be true.

Stanley died in 1928 at the age of seven years. Anton Thronsdon died in 1956. Ruby, Mrs. John Paulson died in 1974. Mary Thronsdon is presently residing in Bethany Home, Camrose.

The Raynold Thronsdon Family by Olive (Pederson) Thronsdon)

The history of the Raynold Thronsdon family must necessarily begin on March 3, 1915, when Raynold was born to Anton and Mary (Skaret) Thronsdon. He was the eldest of seven boys and one girl. He was raised on a farm three miles east and almost three miles north of Armena. Numerous cousins lived on the adjoining farms, providing many opportunities for visiting, fun, and no doubt a fair amount of mischief.

He attended Sunday School at Scandia, parochial school at Bethlehem, and, after a brief summer session of instruction, he was confirmed at Fridhem Church. His school days at Thronson School must never have held a dull moment. About fifty years later, one of his granddaughters, Sandy, held an audience spellbound while she told about what had taken place when Grandpa went to school. Needless to say, she won that speech contest.



Raynold Thronsdon family.

His growing-up years were busy times. Winter time activities included skating on the sloughs, weasel trapping, parties, community plays, and lots of chores.

In the summer, of course, there was the usual amount of farm work, stooking and threshing, and picnics. All summer there were ball games. He pitched for the Breezy League, and his uncle, who was ten days younger than he, was the catcher.

On August 1, 1937, Raynold and I were married in the Bawlf Lutheran Church. It wasn't supposed to rain that day but it did. The hundred guests that my mother had prepared for had to move indoors. Guests from the Lundemo area didn't get home until four the next morning because of the muddy roads. According to the old folktales, all that rain on our wedding day meant that we were supposed to get rich! Never believe old folk-tales — at least, we didn't get rich in money!

We lived for almost three years on a farm near Dinant, a quarter-section bought from the C.P.R. Raynold had spent the winter before our marriage working at Person's lumber camp at Breton to earn enough lumber to build a house. We had a straw barn,

water in the spring nearby, and tremendously good neighbors.

During our stay on the farm, our twin boys, Terrence Marvin and Ronald Ole, were born on September 9, 1938 and Lowell Jem was born on April 10, 1940. One of our twin babies, Ronald Ole, lived scarcely three months and is buried in the Bethlehem Cemetery.

The hungry thirties were very real to us as to many others. In the fall of 1940, we moved to Camrose, then to Bawlf briefly, and to Bruderheim for about three years.

In July, 1946, Raynold was offered a position with the Searle Grain Co. at Armena. It was just like coming home, we haven't moved since.

Terry was in grade two when school started that September and Lowell was a beginner in grade one. No doubt they missed many of their little friends from Bruderheim, but many of their Armena classmates and teachers became very special to them.

Terry and Lowell completed all their grades including grade eleven at the Armena School. They participated in Cubs, Junior Choir, Sunday School, and Luther League activities. They were both very

sportsminded, enjoying softball, football, hockey, and curling, with tin cans of ice, along the railroad ditch with their classmates. Later, they were more seriously involved in Junior and Senior High School hockey and baseball. They were busy from morning till night with school, sports, and helping with the store business. Usually Terry was on the gas truck, even before he had his drivers' license, and Lowell more often helped in the store. We remember too that they seemed to find some time for dating.

Terry completed his grade twelve at the Camrose Lutheran College. He then attended the University of Saskatchewan and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. His B.A. degree was followed by his Master of Divinity.

On August 31, 1963 Terry was married to Lorna Oswald, a twin daughter of Mrs. Oswald and the late Pastor F. Oswald of Saskatoon. To them were born three daughters, Sandra Ruth born January 27, 1965, Karen Lynn born February 21, 1967, and Carla Louise born October 30, 1968. Terry and Lorna and their three daughters live in Selkirk, Manitoba where Terry is the pastor of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Lowell followed in his brother's footsteps, also completing his grade twelve at the Camrose Lutheran College. He digressed at that point by attending the University of Alberta. He was granted his Bachelor of Education degree and later his Masters in Education Administration.

On December 23, 1961, Lowell married Laurel Bakken, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Bakken of Leduc. They have a daughter, Catherine Lynne born on November 14, 1962, and a son, Dale Brian born on May 26, 1964. Lowell is Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Personnel in the Protestant Separate School system in St. Albert, where they make their home.

Armena seemed to offer Raynold and me all that one finds good in a community. We, and our boys, attended Scandia Lutheran Church out in the country at first and then later in Armena itself.

There was a lot of visiting all year around, especially at Christmas when two big company meals a day were quite often the way it was. There seemed to be no problem about packing twenty or thirty Christmas dinner guests into three or four small rooms. We attended Christmas concerts in nearby schools and churches. To go back even earlier, memory keeps alive the picture of Grandma and Grandpa Skaret's big house, with candles burning in the windows, welcoming home three generations, and even a member of the fourth, on Christmas Eve, 1939.

Raynold was busy as a grain buyer, and I was happy to be teaching at the Armena School, from

1948 to 1953, always multiple grades and sometimes high enrollments, when the oil boom was in progress.

During these years, Armena consisted of the three elevators and the residences for the buyers, the school and teacherage, the church and parsonage, a small station, the section foreman's house, the store and oil warehouse, and perhaps another house or two. Farm homes nestled close by since farms were smaller then. The people who lived in the homes were close-knit, sharing their joys and grievances and everyday ups and downs. The party-line telephones kept us well informed, although no one, simply no one, ever "rubbered". Friday night skating parties brought everyone out for a visit at the skating shack.

For a while the oil boom swelled the population of Armena with the odd trailer in somebody's yard or people sharing accommodation. There were three separate households at one time in the store alone.

In 1953, Raynold and Dick Skaret bought the Armena Store and bulk oil business from Maynard Moe. This brought a change in our life.

However, on January 16, 1954, a greater change in our lifestyle occurred with the arrival of our baby daughter, Debra Rae. Her brothers, then fourteen and fifteen and one-half, as well as Raynold and I, were delighted with her.

It seemed that very soon she was able to tag along with them, and tattle on them occasionally. By the time she was in her teens the tables were turned. "Mom, how come Deb has had her ears pierced? She's only fifteen!"

She was born at a good time because Armena seemed to swarm with little kids for her to play with, to be with at Junior Choir, Sunday School, band, music lessons, and school.

She went to school in Armena, then Hay Lakes for grades nine and ten, and Camrose Lutheran College for grades eleven and twelve. She worked at the Royal Bank in Edmonton after completing her grade twelve.

On April 20, 1973, she married Richard Foote, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Foote of Edmonton. They both worked in Calgary for a couple of years and then lived in Edmonton until Ric had completed his Honors Zoology degree and his Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta. Ric and Debi live in McLennan where Ric is the principal of the McLennan Protestant School. They have three children, Michael Daryl Raynold born October 3, 1975, Lauren Kara born October 31, 1977, and Ryan Richard Wesley born December 2, 1980.

So we have eight grandchildren. Just let us say that each one is special, delightful, and precious.

Raynold and I were privileged to have my brother's adopted son, Ronald Pederson, in our home for four years prior to his death from leukemia. He attended school in Armena and in Hay Lakes. He passed away on October 29, 1970, at the age of eighteen years.

Raynold continued in the store business until 1980 when both he and I retired. He had sold the bulk oil business earlier to his brother, Wesley. For the last fourteen years I had been teaching again, first at Armena School until it closed, and then at Hay Lakes School, children in the fourth grade.

We both miss the people with whom we were associated while we were working, in a very special way, but we appreciate our freedom to come and go as we please.

Highlights?

Highlights have necessarily been connected with our children: graduations, weddings Terry's ordination, the arrival of grandchildren. Also a trip to Disneyland and a trip to Hawaii were special.

Certainly the community's birthday party for Raynold on March 3, 1980, honoring him for his years of service to the community, will be a special memory for us. In that same year, we enjoyed the Armena Homecoming Day.

We, and all our family, will always have a feeling of gratitude for the place it has filled in our lives.

Wesley Thronsdon

Most fellows in the neighborhood are content to be called by their first names but there is one who frequently reminds us that, "I am Wesley Gordon!"

Wesley Gordon was born to Mary and Anton Thronsdon on March 9, 1919.

Regardless of time or place, cold or hot weather, he had a shadow. His little brother, Lyle, followed close beside him wherever he went around the farm.

He recalls some little men (we called them dwarfs) who drove, by horse and buggy, from neighbor to neighbor sharpening hand-saw blades and scissors. Of course, they wanted food and lodging too. He also tells about Charlie Peddler on whom he and Ruby played a trick one time. They saw him coming so Wesley handed Ruby a little pop-gun and she hid behind the kitchen door. When Charlie came in, Ruby put the gun to his back and popped off a few. Charlie didn't appreciate that joke! If one didn't buy from him he would say "Kranky Kjaring!"

Then there was Simple Simon. He would come every spring, riding on his bicycle. He had caragana seeds to sell and peony roots which he would even plant, for the price of fifty cents. He had divided somebody else's roots!

Peddler Mike would come and sometimes stay a

week. When he left he would leave Mary a "NICE SILKY DRESS FOR MISSEES."

One day when the Thronsdons were getting steamed up for threshing, Wesley decided to show Doris and Grace what he knew about the steamer. He opened the blowoff valve and steam gushed out. Theodore and Anton came running and Wesley, who was afraid of getting a real good spanking, ran as fast as he could across the field with Anton and Theodore after him. Finally they got him stopped, there was no spanking but there were burns which needed first aid.

Wesley was called into the Army but never left the Camrose barracks. He returned home and continued farming. In 1962, he built a new, modern home for himself and his mother. Mary later moved into Bethany Sunset Home where she still resides.

In 1974, Wesley sold the farm to Don Wilson and moved to Armena where he bought the Wheat Pool house. He took over the Gulf Bulk Fuel business from his brother, Raynold, and hauled fuel to the surrounding farmers. He sold the Wheat Pool house and moved into the Ramstad house. In the fall of 1978 he had the misfortune of crushing his ankle while on the job so, in the spring of 1979 he sold the oil business. He is at present employed by the Camrose Auction Market.

Allan Thronsdon

I was born December 21, 1927, to parents Mary and Anton Thronsdon.

My early memories are those of a house full of laughter, wonderful aromas from the kitchen, sports, Thronson School, Fridhem Church and trap lines for weasels. Other memories are those of the five



Valerie, Wayne, Wendy, Viola, Allan Thronsdon.

o'clock train whistle, straw coming from the blower of the threshing machine, Charlie Pedlar and John Walkers's bull dog.

I attended Thronson School, Armena School and the Camrose High School. Before being married I taught at Bezanson, Round Hill and Ferintosh.

I was only nineteen when I decided to travel the world. My friend and I planned to go to China by cattle boat. We got as far as Vancouver before I went broke and had to return home. Thus ended my world travels.

On August 4, 1954, I married the girl next door — Viola Rasmussen. We have resided in Camrose since then, with the exception of one winter when we lived in Armena. After a period of ten years working for Imperial Oil, I returned to teaching and have taught in various Camrose schools since.

Viola and I have three children. Our eldest, Valerie, is teaching in Camrose. Our second daughter, Wendy, is now Mrs. Marshall. They are living in Saskatoon where Frank is taking veterinary medicine, and Wendy is working in a research lab. Our youngest, Wayne, is presently enrolled in Commerce at Camrose Lutheran College.

Lyle and Carol Thronson

Lyle Thronson was born in 1934 and attended Thronson School for grades one to eight. Some of the highlights Lyle remembers of those early school days



Lyle and Carol Thronson, Sjor, Lisa, and Shaun.

are dunking Joyce MacDonald's braids in the inkwell and putting dead gophers in the teacher's desk. On his first day of school, he ran home, at recess, crying after being "beaten up" by Ronald Peterson. After that, Jean Thronson became his guardian angel, protecting him from "all the big guys".

Grades nine to eleven were spent at Armena School with the noon hours spent smoking in the bushes on the way to Maynard Moe's store. Then it was off to the big city of Camrose for the completion of high school at Camrose High School and the Camrose Lutheran College. He worked for Imperial Oil for two years then he decided to go to University where he received a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, a B.Ed., and a graduate diploma in Mathematics.

In 1962, he married Carol Lingjerde, a nurse, and began his teaching career with the Edmonton Public School Board. Currently he is Principal of Strathern Community School. The Thronsons have three children, Sjor, Lisa, and Shaun.

In 1978, Lyle and Carol became independent Shaklee distributors and are enjoying their growing wholesale distribution business.

Gerald R. Thronson

As the youngest son of Anton and Mary, I was born, raised and educated in the Armena District.

After finishing grade twelve I worked in Camrose where I met and married the lovely Marilyn Skogstad in 1960. Marilyn taught school at Armena and Round Hill until 1964 during which time our daughter Shannon was born. In 1965 a son Todd was born. At this time Marilyn and I decided to move to Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories where I took a position with the Federal Government. During our four years in the North another son, Jeffrey was born. At this point I changed Department and began my career with Indian Affairs. Leaving Fort Smith in 1969 we made our home in High Level, a remote northern Alberta town for three years. During these years, family ties kept pulling us and in 1972 we moved to Edmonton to be closer. In 1975, an opportunity to move to Lethbridge was offered. After much thought and discussion with my family we moved again. It is now 1981 and we are still in Lethbridge enjoying the southern country and its weather.

Daughter Shannon is in second year of university at Camrose Lutheran College. Todd and Jeff are in grades eleven and ten respectively. Both enjoy school sports and music.

At the present time I am District Manager for the Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Lethbridge. Eventually, we would like to move back to Edmonton and make it our permanent residence.

Thorvald R. Thronsdon

Thorvald, the youngest in the Thronsdon family, was born in Brookings, South Dakota, in 1884. When he was eighteen years old he came with the family to Alberta. In 1914, he married Mathilda Grundberg. They lived on their homestead, the N.W. ¼ of 22-48-20 W4, now owned by Martin Severson. Eleanor, Clarence and Ardis were born there. Ardis passed way in her first year.



Thorvald Thronsdon and Matilda Grundberg, December 17, 1914.

In 1919, they sold the farm to Kearnan, and planned to move to British Columbia, pending the purchase of a saw mill. However, the deal did not materialize so they bought the East ½ of 28-47-20 W4 and moved there in the spring of 1921. There, Morris, Dennis, Phyllis and Rodney were born. They all attended Swea School. Thorvald passed away in 1942. Mathilda moved into Camrose in 1957. She passed away in 1966.

Eleanor married Martin Lindstrand. They still live on their farm east of Dinant. They have six children.



Standing: Eleanor, Morris, Phyllis. Seated: Clarence, Rodney, Dennis Thronsdon.

Morley and Betty, Cindy and Kim live in Red Deer where they are all employed.

Ron and Marion and Jill live on their farm in the Dinant district. Jill attends high school in Hay Lakes. Their son, Randy is employed in Camrose.

Laurie and Cathy, Jody, Debbie and Carrie live in the Dinant area on their farm. Jody attends high school at Hay Lakes. Debbie and Carrie attend school at Round Hill.

Diane and Russel Olson and Michael live in Mallorca, Spain where Russel works as an electrician with an oil company now on the Persian Gulf.

Loreen and Rob Ellis and Geoffrey, Kris and Marnie live in Calgary where Rob works at the Royal Bank.

Ardele and Len Keohane, Nicole and Danielle live in Calgary where Ardele teaches school and Len is in business at Airdrie.

Clarence married Teresa Schmidt of Camrose. Clarence was employed by the United Grain Growers at Daysland until he passed away in 1959. They had a son Donald, and a daughter Jacqueline, who passed away at the age of seventeen.

Donald and Valerie, David and Michael live at Stettler where Don operates an accounting business.

Morris married Marie Thompson of Camrose. They reside on their farm in the Camrose North area. Morris spent some time in the Canadian Army, trained in Camrose, and was stationed at Prince George for some time. He also worked for the United Grain Growers for many years at Edberg. They have four children.

Garry lives in Camrose and is employed in oil field work in B.C. and the Canadian North.

Donna and Marvin Rolseth, Kevin and Tanya live near Leduc. Marvin is employed at a welding shop in Edmonton.

Connie and Art Kvale, Barbara and Jacqueline

live on a farm in the Bawlf district. Art farms and is employed with an oil company in Northern Alberta.

Barry lives at home and farms. He is employed with a service rig in the oil fields at the present time.

Dennis married Doris Hamilton of Camrose. Dennis and Doris lived on the family farm for a short time. They moved to Camrose and Dennis was employed for a time at the Camrose Creamery, later worked at St. Mary's Hospital. Dennis passed away at an early age in 1960.

Phyllis married Wilfred Lapointe of Vancouver. They have six children, all living in and around Vancouver. During the war, both Phyllis and Wilf were in the Canadian Navy, stationed in Montreal.

Rodney married Betty Saby of Bawlf. Their two daughters, Shawna and Terena attend high school in St. Albert. Rodney has served as school principal in St. Albert; also on town council for many years. Betty also teaches in St. Albert.

As I write this, many happy memories and some not so happy, are recalled. Some that came to mind are: riding horseback to Fridhem, about ten miles, on Saturdays for confirmation classes, visiting at Uncle Anton's and Uncle Th Theodore's, and having such good times with all our cousins, also the big church meetings at Fridhem that lasted for days and the ladies aid serving huge crowds such delicious meals in a large tent that was erected south of the church . . . spending holidays with my grandparents, the Grundbergs when they lived at Dinant. And some not so happy times, when Dad suffered a stroke at forty-nine years, that left him unable to walk again; and also the untimely passing of Clarence at forty-two, and Dennis at thirty-eight.

Lars B. Tuttle

Lars B. Tuttle filed on a homestead on the SW ¼ 12-48-20 W4 on August 27, 1901 and he received the patent for it on April 14, 1905. The south-west portion of this piece of land became the hamlet of Armena; the remaining acres were purchased by Carl K. Lyseng.

He then bought, from the C.P.R., the SW ¼ 5-48-20 W4 and settled there. It is interesting to note that this land is now owned by our Member of Parliament, Arnold Malone.

Lars farmed here for many years and raised many sheep. In his one room home, a big grey cat was his constant, and only, companion. When a visit to the neighbors was necessary, he was easily recognized from a distance by his well-worn, peaked, black hat, his red plaid shirt, and his heavy, baggy trousers that were held up by suspenders.

When Lars became older and unable to farm, he purchased a small house in Camrose. By 1929 he

became unable to care for himself so he sold his home, on Lot 6 of Block 12, to Mrs. Marie Pederson for the sum of \$650.00. He then moved to the Bethany Sunset Home in Bawlf where he spent the rest of his days.

August Thunberg



This picture, taken about 60 years ago, shows Mr. and Mrs. August Thunberg, their home, and Jack Johnson and August Swanson.



Matilda Thunberg (later Johnson) about 60 years ago.

Lloyd and Grace Urdal Family

Grace was born on April 18, 1923, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Olson. After taking a business course at the Camrose Lutheran College, she was employed as a secretary at the Camrose branch of the Royal Bank. On October 7, 1944 she married Lloyd Urdal of Armada, Alberta. He served in World War II as an Air Force Flying Officer from 1941 to 1945. He continued his education at the University of Alberta where he received his Bachelor of Education.

In 1950 the Urdals moved to Chicago, Illinois, where Lloyd earned his Masters and Doctorate of Education. Since 1955 the family has resided at Pullman, Washington where he now serves as Professor and Chairman of Programs in Adult and Continued Education.



Grace and Lloyd Urdah.

They have four children and five grandchildren. Joan, a teacher, married David Kingrey, a teacher. They live in Spokane, Washington.

David is a Doctor of Bio Chemistry and is married to Shirley Carter. They reside in Seattle, Washington.

Valerie, a nurse, married Nils Kalhoode, a teacher and boat builder and they live in Bellingham, Washington.

Christy is an Operator's Manager at the Maddox Transfer and Storage in Portland, Oregon.

James and Elizabeth Walker by Edith (Walker) Fouracre

James Walker was an office worker in London, England. In 1910 he immigrated to Canada and bought the NW-¼-20-47-20-W4, located seven miles northeast of Camrose, Alberta. At that time it was all unfenced prairie and bush. There were a few neighbors, the nearest being the Hansens to the west, Roths and Mittlestadts to the south and John Olsons to the east.

The first few months Mr. Walker lived alone in a log and sod shed, with only a team of oxen and a dog for company. He built a frame house, a barn and acquired some horses, cows and chickens.

Elizabeth Walker and the three children Gladys, John and Edith joined him in 1911. Shortly after, Gladys went to Calgary to finish school. John soon went to work on a nearby farm, Nils Lyseng's where John learned to do chores and to drive horses. I remained at home and attended Baldenstein School a mile east. Roads had not been constructed then, and because of a large slough between our home and the



Mr. and Mrs. James Walker, 1933.



The Walker house, a mile west of Baldenstein School.

school it was necessary for me to walk much farther around it.

The first few years must have been very difficult for the Senior Walkers as they were older than most pioneers and quite unaccustomed to their new lifestyle or the extremely cold weather encountered in Alberta many times temperatures of thirty to sixty degrees below zero. One thing they shared with other pioneers was courage and determination and they were blessed with good health.

A short time after we arrived one of us children carried out hot ashes from the cookstove, and as the grass was very dry a huge prairie fire started. Neighbors from near and far fought until midnight to extinguish it, and luckily our home was spared.

Another unlucky event was the time our cows were missing and were not found for a couple weeks. We depended on the cream and butter sales for our groceries, so our pantry was very bare for awhile. There were many "lean" years. Dad would shoot

wild prairie chickens and the plentiful wild berries supplemented our larder.

I went on to high school in Camrose and later entered into the nursing profession, then working in a hospital at Mannville, Alberta, in 1927. While there I met my husband, Lionel Fouracre whose home was in that area. We have two married daughters.

My parents carried on alone on the farm until 1933 when they moved to a small home they built in Armena to be near their son John who ran the local store. In 1944 they came to live with me and my family in Edmonton until they passed away, my mother in 1950 at age ninety and my father at age ninety-one in 1951. Gladys, John and I now live in Vancouver, B.C.

Mabel (Hendrickson) and John Walker by John

Mabel Christine Hendrickson born in the States in 1896, came to Canada with her family in 1901. Thordenskjold was her school and she was active in the youth work of the church. In 1920 a number of young people decided to take a winter course at C.L.C. and it was then that Mabel and John Walker began to keep company. In 1922 they were married at a double wedding ceremony performed by Rev. Ellingson. The other couple was Mabel's sister Mary and Hellick Rustand. Since the church was being redecorated the wedding was held at the G. O. Hendrickson home. Two large tents were used, and there were around 200 guests. In those days it was customary to invite most of the community to celebrations such as this.

John Douglas Walker son of James Walker writes thus: "We are of Scottish descent and my father, James Walker, came over here to Alberta in 1910. Although having never farmed he bought a quarter section one mile west of Baldenstein School approximately six and one half miles north west of Camrose. My mother, two sisters and I came here in September 1911. At this time my father was running the farm with four oxen and two horses. I can remember him going into Camrose driving two oxen hitched to a hayrack. I believe these were the last oxen seen or used around here. As we came here from England we knew nothing of Canadian winters and when the zero weather came we almost froze to death. We used stocking feet for mitts and one spell of cold weather when my father did not go into Camrose for supplies, we lived on frozen potatoes and coarse salt."

John left home after a year or two and stayed at Nels Lysengs where he "learned to do chores, drive horses and a few sentences in Norwegian!" After four years he moved to the Armena district and

worked for Carl Lyseng and Knut K. Lyseng starting at \$75.00 a year and the last year received \$100.00.

After their marriage in 1922 Mabel and John ran a store at Ferintosh for K. W. Tanner of Camrose. After about a year, the Armena store burned down and Mabel's folks came to Ferintosh to see if they would be interested in building a new store. With financial help from K. K. Lyseng and building help from relatives and neighbors the new store became a reality. That year a hail storm destroyed crops and gardens. But it is an ill wind that does not bring some good. Instead of harvesting, the men could help on the building of the store! And John, in return would help farmers garner in feed from what the hail left. A shingling "Bee" of course finished off the store. In September 1923 Mabel and John were open for business! They were granted a Post Office and received mail from the C.N.R. trains passing through daily. Soon elevators were built and the hamlet began to grow.

The Walkers were busy people. Besides running the store and the Post Office they were active with the young people of the community and especially in the work of the church. Advisers to Luther Leaguers, and Superintendent of the Sunday School; President for several years of the Northern Lights Young Peoples



John Walker family. May, Mabel, John.

Society and holding offices in the congregation were some of John's duties. They boarded the teachers for several years. Two of them were Alma Harber and Dorothy Deverell. Later on John pumped gas and ran a bulk gas and oil business for farmers who were now using tractors for farm work and also driving cars.

In May 1928 John and Mabel were blessed with a daughter, Mae Hume. She grew up and attended Thordenskjold and Armena Schools, Scandia Church and took music lessons becoming a proficient player. After high school she trained as a nurse in the Vancouver General Hospital and graduated in 1950. After graduation she spent two years in Yellowknife, then was supervisor of pediatrics in Prince George, B.C. for eight years. Around 1965 she took a position as head nurse of the Pediatrics ward in a hospital in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. where she is at the present time (1981). Mae holds her R.N., B.A. in nursing in Portland, Oregon.



Left to Right: John, May, and Mabel Walker, Martha, Nola, and Bob Hardy.

Mabel's health began to fail. She suffered from arthritis and for several years had a bout with pneumonia every spring. Her Doctor recommended a change of climate, so it was that in 1947 the store was sold to Mr. Rudd and the Walkers moved to Vancouver, B.C. where they lived on Adanac Street (Canada spelled backwards) leading an active life in First Lutheran Church and with members of her family who preceded them to Vancouver. However Mabel's health continued to deteriorate and she passed away in Vancouver in 1967. John had worked in his brother-in-law's jewelry store for a time and then became involved with Odeon Theatres and has worked many years, the last while part-time, until his retirement in 1978. He still lives in his home.

Ted and Clara Walkemeyer

Theodore and his wife Clara (Rasmussen) were proprietors of the Armena General Store for a short time, the year 1918.



Courting days in Dodge touring car. Clara Rasmussen and Ted Walkemeyer.



Theodore and Clara Walkemeyer, December 20, 1916.

Ted came to Canada in 1910 as a young man, from Illinois, U.S.A., to the Ohaton district where his parents had a homestead. Clara came to Canada from Nebraska in 1911 to the Dinant district where her parents farmed. When Ted was romancing Clara he had a new "Open Touring Dodge", of which Clara's sisters were very jealous.

Their stay in Armena was the year of the severe influenza epidemic, the 1918 "flu." Ted and Clara had their customers slip their grocery orders under the door and filled orders were set outside to avoid direct contact with other people during the epidemic. People also wore mouth masks to protect themselves and others from the "flu bug". Their first child Isabel was born at the living quarters of the store in October, 1918.



Isabel Walkemeyer — first baby born in hamlet of Armena.

On leaving Armena they moved to a farm in the Dried Meat Lake area, and later to Camrose where Clarice and Allen were born. Having many relatives and friends in the Camrose North area meant happy holidays at the farms, skating parties on the slough, fun at the lake, box socials and picnicing.

The Walkmeyers lived in Camrose during 1922 to 1944 where Ted operated a trucking business and later a meat market. They then moved to Victoria, British Columbia where he worked as a millwright until his death in 1948. Clara spent her last three years in the Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Camrose where she died in July, 1979.

A sad event in this family was the death of Allan at fifteen years of age by an accidental shooting.

Clarice was a telephone operator in Camrose.

She married Bill Paul of Camrose and they now live in Grande Prairie. They had one son and two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Isabel took her Normal School training in Camrose. She married Leroy Fowler of Camrose and they now reside in Calgary. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

The Archie and Helen Wallbank Story by Hazel Blum

Archie was born and raised in Sunny Nook. He was an only child.

Archie came north in the fall of 1934 to the Nashville district and in the spring moved to Duhamel where he farmed for many years. He married Helen Craney and raised five boys: Grant, Lorne, Francis, Clayton and Russel.

Later they moved to Camrose and Archie took up carpentry work and built houses for many years. He bought a farm north of Camrose at Barlee Junction, and farmed and carpentered until 1971. In 1972 they sold the farm to Freeman and Rose Lofgren, and they moved to North Surrey where they still reside.



Archie Wallbank family.

Donald Waterston Family written by Betty Waterston

Donald Waterston was born in Camrose on January 18, 1927. He and his parents lived two miles north-east of Camrose until he was the age of six years. In 1933, the family moved to a farm located on the NE ¼ of Section 19-47-20 W4 and rented this farm until 1936, when they purchased it. They have continued to live there. The land is seven miles north-west of Camrose on the Miquelon Lake road.



1978. Back, Left to Right: Donald and Betty Waterston, Trudy, Maynard Neufeld, Rodney Waterston. Front: Anna Waterston, Ben and Ivy Sallee.

Donald attended Baldenstein School for nine years and took three years of high school in Camrose.

Betty Sallee was born at Highridge, Alberta and in 1944, she and her sister, Violet (Sallee) Smith, together with their parents, moved to Osoyoos, B.C. In 1949, they moved to Camrose having purchased the Robert Schroeder farm, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30-47-20 W4. Betty attended the Baldenstein School for two years and then worked for parents until her marriage to the boy next door.

Donald Waterston married Betty Sallee in June, 1953. They constructed their own home not far from his parents home. They have one daughter, Trudy, and one son, Rodney.

Trudy Marie was born June 26, 1955. She married Maynard Neufeld in June, 1977. They live in the Gladstone District and have a young son, Keith Allen, born on October 13, 1981.

Rodney Robin was born on July 16, 1960. He is employed by Klugs Steel Metals in Camrose.

The Silver Wedding Anniversary of Donald and Betty Waterston was celebrated in June, 1978. The day was also the First Wedding Anniversary of Maynard and Trudy Neufeld as well as being Trudy's birthday.

Robert Waterston History submitted by Anna Waterston

Robert (Bob) Waterston was born in 1898 in Lochaber Bay, Quebec. The family moved to the Wetaskiwin area in Alberta in the early 1900's and later, to Vancouver, B.C., where Bob attended the University of B.C., until he enlisted in the Air Force in World War I. In 1917, the family returned to Wetaskiwin and in 1918, settled on a farm near Camrose. Bob worked in a bank in Wetaskiwin before joining his family in Camrose.

My father, William P. Mittlestadt, was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and immigrated to Alberta in 1900. He filed on a homestead, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12-47-20 W4, located two and one-half miles north-east of Camrose, Alberta.

In 1895, my maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Mc Whirter, moved to Camrose, Alberta from Camby, Minnesota, U.S.A., and homesteaded land about two miles east of Camrose. They had a family of six sons and three daughters, one of whom was my mother, Anna Mc Whirter.

William Mittlestadt and Anna Mc Whirter were married in 1902. There were two children in our family, myself, Anna (named after my mother) and my brother, Walter. I was born in 1903, two and one-half miles north-east of Camrose which was in what was then known as the Northwest Territories. Camrose had become a town by the time I attended school there.

Robert Waterston and I were married in 1926 and have one son, Donald. We lived in the New Salem District for one year and Bob served as Secretary-Treasurer of the school. We then moved to a farm north-east of Camrose and farmed there for five years.

In 1933, we rented a farm seven miles north-west of Camrose, in the Baldenstein District, for a period of three years. Donald attended the Baldenstein School. We purchased this farm, located on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19-47-20 W4, in 1936. Bob served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Baldenstein School Board for a number of years before the school closed, in 1952, when the country schools joined the new Sifton School in Camrose.

Our son Donald and a neighbor girl, Betty Sallee, were married in June, 1953. They live nearby in a home of their own. They have a daughter, Trudy, and a son, Rodney.

On September 8, 1961, my brother, Walter, lost his life in a tragic car accident at a railroad crossing.

My husband, Bob, succumbed suddenly to a heart attack in July, 1974. I continue to live in, and maintain, my own home on the farm. I just recently became a proud great-grandmother on the birth of Keith Allen, born in October, 1981, to Trudy and Maynard Neufeld.

Mrs. Anna Watland and Family

Anna was born in South Dakota on August 9, 1889. At the age of twelve she came with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson and family to live on the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 21-48-20 W4. She received about four years of schooling after the Thronson school was built. She was doing domestic house work in



Wedding of Jacob and Anna Watland, October 27, 1915. Olivia Johnson, bridesmaid, Inge Mjelve, best man.

Camrose when she met and married Jacob Marti Watland in 1915.

In 1916 they moved to a farm on the east side of Joseph Lake where they lived until Mr. Watland passed away in 1923. Later that spring Anna purchased the home quarter of her parents' estate, S.E. 1/4 21-48-20 W4 and moved there to reside along with her three children, Florence, Jenette and son Theol. Supporting herself and three young children was not easy on one-half crop share of about twenty-seven acres of cultivated field, and taking care of a few head of cattle and a flock of chickens.

There were cows to milk, barn yard chores, water to pump by hand, wood to split and carry, fences to mend, hens to set and chicks to care for, garden to plant, weeds to pick, potatoes to hill, wild saskatoons, raspberries and cranberries to pick and preserve. There was bread to bake, butter to churn and make into one pound prints which she bartered for groceries at the Dinant Store and Post Office. Eggs also went to market through the store. The mode of transportation was "Old Prince" and the buggy in the summer, and the cutter in the winter.

Many were the times her children awakened after



Watland family — 1923. Theol, Mrs. Anna Watland, Florence, Jenette.

sleeping several hours only to hear the sound of the carders, carding batts of wool to be made into patchwork quilts, or coils of wool to be spun into yarn on the old spinning wheel her mother brought from Norway. There were also the times they were awakened by the sound of the spinning wheel and hearing it go slower, and slower, and slower, until her feet stopped and her hands rested on her lap, and her head nodded, till suddenly she awakened from momentary sleep with renewed determination to get on with the job; all because there were socks, mitts and scarves to knit and three young children to care for.

But there were lighter moments too in her life, such as going to Sunday worship service, Ladies Aid meetings, visiting with neighbors and relatives, and attending annual picnics.

Anna moved to Bethany Home in 1965. In her declining years she made use of a hobby she learned as a young lady but had little time for in her working years. This was crotcheting and tatting doilies, winning prizes at the Camrose fair even until she was eighty-eight years old.

She lived to see eight grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. One great-grandson, Allen Wilson passed away in 1967 at the age of seven months. She passed away at the age of eighty-nine years on October 12, 1978 and was buried in the Bethlehem cemetery according to her wish.

Her family grew up receiving their schooling at Thronson school. Florence married Marvin Likness of Viking, Alberta where they farmed for several years, then moved to Daysland where they farmed until they retired to Camrose, Alberta. Marvin passed away in 1979. To their marriage were born two children. Vernon who resides at Sedgwick, Alberta; and Grace, Mrs. Rolph Nosterud of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. There are five grandchildren.

Jenette married Forest Wilson formerly of Sedalia, Alberta. They farmed in the Armena district for five years and are now retired in Camrose. They

have three children, Joan who married Dale Tollefson of Rosalind, Alberta and now resides in Camrose. Douglas married Marilyn Selin of Hay Lakes, Alberta. They live in Calgary. Donna married Terrance Knockleby of Bashaw, Alberta. They live in Drayton Valley. Forest and Jenette have eleven grandchildren.

Theol, being the only son, it fell his lot to try to start farming rather than leave his mother on the farm and seek work elsewhere. This he did with the help of kind neighbors. He received his call to military service but was medically categorized "subject to recall". In 1952 he purchased the S.W. ¼ 22-48-20 W4 across the road from the home place, which incidently, was homestead land acquired by his grandfather Andrew Johnson fifty-one years earlier.

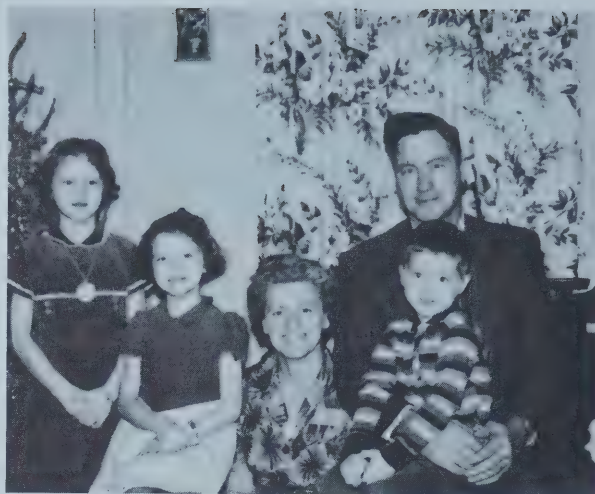
Before the year was out he met and began courting a fair lady named Enid Bergman who was soon to become willing to share his ups and downs, his joys and sorrows, for better, not worse, till death do they part.

Enid was born in Langham, Saskatchewan, the second of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bergman. She grew up in Saskatchewan. During the second world war she spent two years employed at Small Arms of Toronto, Ontario after which she joined her parents who had moved to Vancouver, where she worked for Safeway for seven years. She spent two years at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute at Camrose where she graduated in the spring of 1953.

Theol and Enid were married in Vancouver, July 10, 1953. They were active members of Bethlehem Lutheran church where they held various offices in the congregation.

The first winter of their marriage a near tragedy was avoided by Enid's presence of mind. It happened while at home alone she was carrying out ashes from the cook stove on a windy day in February. The wind blew some live coals out of the ash pan and they fell into, and ignited the straw that was banked against the foundation to help keep the house warm. Because of the mild weather the straw had become dry so it started to burn immediately. What should she do? She ran into the back entry, grabbed Theol's long sheep skin coat and quickly smothered the flames. The coat was damaged but the house was saved.

Three children were born to them. Darlene, Janice, and David. They all attended Armena school in their early years. One winter afternoon when they were about to leave school a severe blizzard suddenly blew in from the north west. By the time their school bus arrived at the Clifford Carlson farm approach, the blizzard was so severe the passenger door of the bus had become damaged, visability and travel was



Theol Watland family.

severely hampered. Fortunately a snow plow was plowing in the vicinity and it was agreed that it should travel ahead of the bus. With concern for all the children, Adolph Peterson the bus driver, in his better judgement, accepted Clifford Carlson's kind invitation to give refuge to the Watland children for the night, in order to shorten the bus travel over four miles of badly drifted road. So it was with tears of joy and a prayer of thanksgiving that Theol and Enid heard the news on the radio that their children were safe in the Carlson home.

In September of 1960 Theol became employed at Camrose Tubes owned by Page Hersy, later known as Stelco-Camrose Works. In September 1965 they bought and moved into a house in Camrose. Two years later Theol decided one job at a time was enough so gave up farming. At time of writing he is still employed at Stelco. Enid has been employed as a cook at Camrose Children's Center since 1969.

Darlene married Wayne Obenauer of Camrose in 1973. They have one daughter, Michelle. Darlene is employed as a Certificate Dental Assistant. Wayne is employed as a Service Manager for Northland Tire Store.

Janice married Greg Sharpe of Kelowna, B.C. September 5, 1981. Janice is a Certified Nursing Aide, and is employed part-time at Kelowna Hospital.

David is also in Kelowna B.C. He is employed as a painter for Van Amera there.

The Welda Family by Susan Ramm

Rolf Welda was born August 28, 1907 and was the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Welda of the



Welda family, 1959. Left to Right: Margaret, Rolfe, Susan, Arthur, James, Brian.

Hay Lakes district. The Weldas had a family orchestra which played at many dances in the area.

Rolfe married Margaret Milroy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Milroy of the Bittern Lake area. He worked for Lester Anderson for a few years before he purchased a truck and did general trucking in the area.

In 1943, they purchased the home quarter, NW 34-47-21 W4, on which they now reside, from Tom Hughes. Through the years, they purchased the Reinholt Wolter farm and the David Willisko farm.

Rolfe and Margaret have four children, Susan, Arthur, James, and Brian. The children attended school in Armena. Susan and Arthur attended high school in Camrose for a year but finished their schooling at Hay Lakes. Brian took all his high school education at Hay Lakes.

Susan is a registered nurse with a diploma in psychiatric nursing. She took her general nursing at the Calgary General Hospital and graduated from Alberta Hospital, Ponoka in 1966. She married Arnold Ramm of the Edberg district and they have three children, Pamela, Ian, and Tyler. For a number of years she was employed part-time at the Rosehaven Care Centre, Camrose.

Arthur married Shirley Doolan of Edmonton. They live in the city and have two children, Bradley and Hollie. Arthur took a partsmen course at N.A.I.T. and apprenticed at Turnbull Motors. He then worked for Pardee Equipment and is now employed by the City of Edmonton.

James married Lynn Brawner of Edmonton. He has been farming in the Armena district with his Dad since he left school. They have a daughter, Shawna, and reside on the former Dave Willisko farm.

Following school, Brian did trucking Hill and Hill in Edmonton and for Hi-Way 13, Camrose. He married Jennifer Bell of Edmonton and they have two daughters, Jantien and Grace. Brian is farming in the Armena district with his Dad and his brother, James.

Mom and Dad continue to live on the home place and assist with the farm operations.

The Joseph Wenig Family

Joseph Wenig (1905-1978) came to Canada in 1929 from Bavaria, Germany. The depression had already hit Europe so many Europeans decided to try their luck in well-advertised Canada.

After a train ride through desolate country from Halifax to Edmonton, Joseph arrived there on May 10th to find a few inches of snow had fallen and what was worse, people were already lined up at soup kitchens and there were no jobs available. Joseph had a farming background but farmers could no longer afford to hire help. In the early 30's the government paid a worker \$5.00 a month to work on a farm and paid the farmer \$5.00 a month to keep him. However, with his male nurse certificate he fortunately obtained work at city hospitals where he was employed for several years.

Joseph married Esther Lyseng in 1937 and in the spring of 1940 they purchased and moved to her father's (Edwin) farm in the Armena area where they started mixed farming. Joseph began raising registered grain. The family spent many days roguing weeds and foreign grains, walking up and down the



Esther Lyseng — age 4½ years.

fields arm lengths apart. He obtained his Elite Seed Growers Certificate in 1951 but when the oil companies came the next year and began criss-crossing the fields, it was no longer possible to grow pure seed grain.

The Wenigs also kept a flock of 1500 R.O.P. laying hens for several years, selling hatching eggs to Camrose and Wetaskiwin.

Joseph was proud of his sizable raspberry patch and small fruits. He also kept a few colonies of bees.



Edwin Lyseng with granddaughters — 1952. Eileen, Reta, and Linda Wenig.

In 1953 Joseph decided it was time he and his wife had their honeymoon so with their six children (aged 4-15) and the car trunk packed to capacity, they set off on their ten day honeymoon and first holiday. He made his first trip back to Europe in 1958, along with his wife and two youngest sons, Alois (20 months) and Conrad (8 months), who were given cards for being the youngest to have flown over the North Pole.

Rupert, the eldest of the eight children, was born in Edmonton in 1938. After finishing High School he attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary and was an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer at Prince Rupert and Prince George, B.C., for several years before moving back to farm near Armena. While at Prince Rupert he met and married Aline Sevigny in 1966. They purchased the Melvin Severson farm east of Armena and Rupert also does appliance repair work. They have four children, Wendy (1967), Sheila (1968), Allan (1970), and Ian (1972).

Elwood (1941) graduated from C.C.H.S. and attended Vermilion School of Agriculture. He married



Joe Wenig family, 1960. Reta, Lorenz, Linda, Elwood, Esther, Joe, Rupert, Conrad, Eileen, Alois.

Jean Withers from Lavoy in 1966 and after a few years of farming, moved to Abbotsford, B.C. Elwood operated a feed business before becoming involved with Accelerated Christian Education Schools. He is now A.C.E. Co-Ordinator across Canada. Elwood and Jean recently moved to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. They have three children, Sharon (1966), Brenda (1967), and Darrel (1971).

Lorenz (1943) completed his High School in Camrose and chose farming as his career. He worked with his dad farming the home place, which he still continues to farm, and purchased the farm formerly owned by Oscar and Ruth Jasman. He married Joyce Stevenson from Camrose in 1964. They have built a dairy barn and a new home on their farm. Lorenz and Joyce have four children, Shane (1966), Loreen (1969), Cindy (1971), and Kimberly (1974).

Linda arrived in 1945, the first girl in the family. She married Joe Vandenberg in 1967. At that time Joe was an Edmonton City Police Officer. After ten years on the Force he decided to try his hand at farming. Joe and Linda bought their farm from Lawrence Severson in the Armena East area. Joe has built three large hog barns and is specializing in purebred hogs. They have also built a new home. Their six children are: Joanne (1968), Darryl (1971), Gerret (1972), Greig (1974), Jason (1977), and Caren (1979).

Rita (1947) married Bill Webster from Hay Lakes in 1966. They are also farming, have dairy cattle and two new hog barns. Bill also works in Edmonton. Rita and Bill have three children, Cheryl (1968), David (1969), and Glen (1972).

Eileen was born in 1949. In 1974 she married Jacque De Boer from Edmonton. They live at the



First show for Joe Vandenberg, 1977. Record price for Camrose \$1,120.00.

Wenig farm home with Jacques commuting to work in Edmonton.

Linda, Rita and Eileen were all employed at Camrose banks.

Alois (1956) attended Camrose schools, graduating from Camrose Composite High School. He worked for Northwestern Utilities in Edmonton as an Instrument Technician for two years. He is now a Commercial Pilot and Instructor at Camrose Airport. Al married Corinne Johnson, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Dewey Johnson, in 1976. Al and Corinne live in Camrose.

Conrad was born in 1957. He died in a car accident in 1975.

The Wennerstroms **by Bob Wennerstrom**

Tollef Korstad arrived in the Camrose area approximately 1904 and settled on a section of land, two miles north of Camrose. (Section 13-47-20-W4).

George Wennerstrom and his family emigrated

from St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. and homesteaded at Owlseye Lake, near St. Paul, Alberta in 1917. In the spring of 1918, they arrived in the Camrose area and George worked at the Dinant Collieries for two winters. He then moved to Camrose in 1921 and worked as a janitor at the Normal School until its closing.

Iver Wennerstrom (one of George's sons) went to work for Korstad in 1918. On July 17, 1918 he was united in marriage to Myrtle Mathson of Hughenden, Alberta. Iver and Myrtle's three children, Stan Wennerstrom (a long time farmer in the Onoway district), Marlene Klement (now residing in California), and Bob Wennerstrom, were all raised in the Camrose area.

Bob Wennerstrom and his wife Aletha are farming four miles north of Camrose on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -26-47-20-W4. There they have raised five children. Shirley Nadon, Charlotte Allers, and Sharon Edwards (all residing in the Camrose area), Wayne Wennerstrom (residing at Shalath, B.C.) and Gary Wennerstrom (living in the Edmonton area). Bob has also been delivering the rural mail to Round Hill, Kingman and Miquelon Lake are since 1965.

The Wensel Family **from an interview with the Wensels**

After enduring the sufferings and hardships of World War I, with Adolph in the Army and the rest of the family being driven from their home and exiled to Siberia for four years, the Wensels were able to return to their farm home in Poland. Conditions were very militaristic in Poland and the Wensels had relatives in Canada so the urge to cross the ocean became very strong.

In 1928, John, Adolph, their widowed mother, Matilda (Mrs. Christoffer) Wensel, and sister and brother-in-law, Emily and Bill Majeski, left their homeland and arrived at the home of the August Otkes in Winnipeg. The men looked around for land but found it very rocky so they went west, leaving their mother with her brother in Winnipeg.

The land seekers found their way to the Dinant area where John and Adolph stayed awhile with the Frank Cails while they looked for land. The Majeskis, having found land to their liking in the Avonroy district, settled and reared their five daughters.

John then took a trip to the Grande Prairie area to check out the possibilities there. Finding transportation problems, he returned to the Camrose North area where he and Adolph purchased the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 4-48-20 W4 from George Hendrickson for the price of \$40.00 per acre and rented the adjoining quarter, belonging to Carl E. Lyseng. They lived on the

Hendrickson farm until the fall of 1938 when they moved to the Lyseng place.

Richard Link and family, who had been living on the Bengt Anderson farm, bought a farm in Olds. He hired John to do some building for him and Adolph to do the fieldwork at \$2.00 per day. That fall, 1929, the crop was very poor due to the drought but worth a try to salvage; wheat was selling at \$1.50 per bushel. Mr. Link bought a header and hired Adolph to run it at \$4.00 per day.

The next years saw many changes to the lives of the Wensel brothers. In 1932, their mother, Matilda, passed away. They paid for their farm in 1936 and in 1938, John and Ethel Benke were married.

In 1941, the Wensels purchased all of section three and two quarters in section two which were up for tax and mortgage sale. They built a house on the Wilson place which had a flowing well and they piped the water into the house. They were among the earliest to have running water.

In September of 1948 they sold out to the Hutterian Brethren and John purchased the Lars Ma-land farm, neighboring the Thronson farms. Their first project here was to build a bigger house as John and Ethel by now had three sons, Waldemar, Edward, and Willie. All three of the boys received their schooling at Armena.

The boys were growing to manhood and wanted homes of their own. In 1964, Wallie married Marlene Hoffman and at first lived in the Bailey Subdivision of Camrose. He later purchased the Robert Young farm but in 1969 had the misfortune to lose their home and contents by fire. Wally, being in the construction business, built a beautiful new home. In



John Wensel family. Edward and Waldemer (at back), Ethel, John, and Willie.

1970 he sold out to Stan Wilson but continues in construction. Wallie, Marlene, and their two children live in Edmonton.

Edward married Ella Reutter of Bawlf on July 4, 1964. They bought and moved to the Hatfield place, then owned by Henry and Lefty Wolfe. Here they set up a dairying operation. In 1970, they sold the farm to Ervin Prowse and moved to Camrose. Ed, Ella, and their three children live in Calgary where Ed is President of Newport Industries Development Management.

Willie was employed by Crawford and Company in Camrose for many years. He is presently employed by East Gate as a licensed mechanic and lives with his parents. He enjoys singing with the Barbershoppers and travelling.

John and Ethel had sold all but forty acres to the Wilsons. They remained on their acreage until 1974 when they purchased a home and moved to Camrose. In his retirement, John has made pea shellers, chicken pluckers, and a garden trash shredder.

In the meantime, back in Germany World War II was raging. Again some of the Wensels were driven from their home and supposedly into American territory. On awakening in the morning, they saw they were encircled by Russian soldiers and they knew they were in East Germany. The family became separated. Mrs. Julia Jaeger (John and Adolph's sister) and her daughter, Elsie Schendler, were left at the barracks but the father was removed. Mrs. Jaeger tells of her search for her husband and after some time got the information. She set out one cold and icy morning, on foot, to find him. Luckily she did get a few lifts as the distance was seventy-five kilometers. They were fortunate in getting a ride part way back as Mr. Jaeger was suffering from malnutrition.

Elsie got a job in a government shop where people could come and get clothing. Her meals were supplied so she also got for her parents. They began seriously thinking of joining the rest in Canada, but in their moving had lost John and Adolph's address. After deep concentration, Dinant, Alberta, Canada came to Mrs. Jaeger's mind. They sent a letter. In the meantime John and Adolph had changed their address to Camrose, but due to an alert Postmaster in Dinant who forwarded the letter, the boys got it.

The Jaegers manipulated their way into West Germany and by June, 1949 they were in Canada!

Adolph purchased the Kause farm, commonly known as the Ostrem farm, and his sister and family came to live with him. In 1950, Edward, brother to Elsie, was released after being a prisoner of war for five years and he joined his people in Canada. In 1957, Edward found work in Vancouver where he also found a wife and they continue to live there.



Adolph Wensel, Mrs. Jaeger, Elsie Schendler.

In 1953 Adele, a sister to Elsie, and her husband, Cieply, and family arrived. They cooked at the Jubilee Lunch Cafe in Camrose for eight years and then moved to Toronto where they continue to live.

Mr. August Jaeger died in 1970, at the age of eighty-eight years.

In 1977, Adolph sold the farm and machinery to Fred Anderson and he, Elsie and her mother moved to a new home on Marler Drive in Camrose. Mrs. Jaeger, at ninety-four years, boasts of making two air-trips to Vancouver last year, to visit her son and his family.

Algot and Joan Wickland

Mr. Algot Wickland and myself (Joan) and our four children moved from the Bittern Lake district in late March 1932 to the Harry Roper place (Budde farm). The moving was done by sleigh across the east side of Bittern Lake. I seem to remember seeing lots of snow and the weather still very cold.

We farmed there until 1935 then moving to Ace Broen farm (Buban's farm). Our two eldest children Ernie and Ethel started school in the fall of 1935 attending Thordenskjold school. Their teacher was Bennie Lomnes. Mr. and Mrs. Lomnes lived near the school and were very well respected and liked by the pupils.



Algot and Joan Wickland, 1956.

The winter of 1935-36 was a hard one. There was four feet of snow, hardly any wind and in February the temperature dropped to -50°F . and only came up to -35 during the day. This lasted for at least three weeks. Many children missed school during this period.

I can remember that any time we had a break in the weather (warmer) we would see long lines of men and sleighs heading for Shutes coal mine in Dinant. Many came from as far as Millet district. They would go one day and return the next. The roads were narrow and built up by snow and only tracks were solid. By spring it was just about impossible to take a team on them. They would start shoving each other and finally they would go off into the deep snow and the sleigh would upset.



Ernie, Bill, Vera and Ethel Wickland.

A carload of coal was brought into Armena from Forestburg and several of our neighbors also my husband took grain and brought back a load of coal. It was good hard coal but very expensive. My husband didn't make it home the first time, the horses took over and upset the whole load.

In 1939 we moved to Martin Hendrickson's half section, near Busk school — Mr. Broen leaving sold his farm.

The children attended Busk school having several different teachers, all of whom they always liked. The teachers were great in those days. They took part in whatever the kids did, even sports. The Christmas concert was really something too. The parents got involved and I'm sure really loved it. The kids expected us to help make costumes or anything else they needed and I'm sure as all parents did we were just as interested as the kids were.

Until Busk school closed we were very fortunate in having Carl Soderstrom hold Sunday school at the school. In the late 30's Busk was closed and the children then attended the big two room school at Armena.

We purchased the half-section from Martin Hendrickson on which we were living and renting. That was our home until 1960. At that time Mr. Wickland was ill with heart trouble and we moved to Camrose selling the farm to our youngest son. He later sold it to its present owner Dave Fetzner.

Mr. Wickland passed away in 1962.

I, Mrs. Wickland live in Camrose.

Our eldest son Ernie is a mail carrier and lives at home with me.

Our eldest daughter Ethel and her husband and family live in Camrose. Her husband recently retired from The Royal Canadian Air Force.

Bill farms the Stark farm and drives school bus.

Vera lives in Penticton, British Columbia.

William (Bill) Wickland

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Algot Wickland of Armena. Moved to the Armena area in 1935. Attended school at Thordenskjold, with teacher being Bennie Lomnes. We then moved one and a half miles south and one and a half miles west of Armena. Attended Busk school, with Miss Sather being the teacher. In 1942, the Armena school opened and the Busk school closed.

Teachers at Armena

Anyone remember an old English spinster, Miss Linfield?

Also Miss Symington, Miss Miller, Harold Rolseth and Luther Olson.

Sure went through a lot of teachers. Miss Miller came out to the horse barn one night after school, six

or eight of the boys had to take a note home to their parents, got caught smoking. I thought it was pretty funny. I put mine out just before she walked in.

Harold Rolseth kicked me out of school a few times. Wasn't only me. He sure liked to talk politics, but he could not run very fast.

I often wondered what Miss Miller and Miss Symington did for a toilet around Halloween time. That outhouse of theirs must have been well built it sure did a lot of travelling.

We did some travelling too. Geo Hendrickson had some mean dogs. Ewald Soderstrom had a mean shotgun.

I left school in 1946 and I worked in B.C. a couple of years and on the home farm.

In 1949, I joined the RCAF and was discharged in 1953. I worked in Edmonton after this.

I married in 1955 to Marge Famulak. We had six children: Monica — 1956, Michelle — 1959, Bart — 1961, Jacqueline — 1962, Annette — 1964, Scott — 1967.

Monica is married to Wade Weller of Daysland. They are living in Edmonton. Monica is studying medicine at the U of A.

Michelle is married to Keith Guild of Nova Scotia. They are living on the home farm.

Bert is working and living in Camrose.

Jacqueline is a teacher's aide, working in Camrose.

Annette and Scott are attending school in Camrose.

We moved to Dad's farm at Armena in 1961. In 1964, I bought the Stark farm from Nels Jensen. Located just northwest of the Junction of Highways 13 and 21.

I got my Mechanics License and Welding Ticket in 1969. Started working for the County driving school bus in 1967. I am still farming and driving school bus. March 7, 1982.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your book.

Dave and Alice Willisko

In the spring of 1946, Dave and Alice Willisko moved to Armena from the community of Round Hill, where Dave had been mining coal. They purchased a farm previously owned by Frank Mohler. It was situated on the SE 2-48-21 W4, the homestead of Sam Bronkin. The original house on the farm, of log construction, still stands but has been sided with lumber and painted. It was built in the very early 1900's and did not have indoor plumbing or electricity. Years later electricity was installed and the house is still being lived in today.

When the Williskos first came farming, they had no means of transportation except for walking. Later



Dave and Alice Willisko June 21, 1943.

on they got a horse and buggy from relatives and a couple of cows so that's how they got their start. It took everything they had to get the farm going. One time, they remember not having three cents in the house to mail a letter.

Dave and Alice's first daughter, Dianne, was born on February 2, 1950. Their family continued to grow with the arrival of two other children, Marilyn, born June 17, 1954, and Darlene, born May 18, 1961. Both Dianne and Marilyn attended the elementary school in Armena and Darlene received her education in Camrose, after the family left the farm.

Dave did some mixed farming but was primarily involved in grain production. During the winter of 1955, he also worked on the oil rigs in Red Deer and the surrounding area. Years later, while still farming, Dave took a full time job at the Junction service station.

During this time, Alice was busy helping on the farm and raising their family. She belonged to the Armena Home and School Association and was an



Dave Willisko family. Marilyn, Alice holding Darlene, Dave, Dianne.

active member of the Armena Willing Workers, a community organization that worked for the Red Cross. She was also involved in making quilts and fund raising for charitable organizations.

In 1967, they sold their land to James Welda and moved to Camrose, where they presently reside. Dave is employed as a mechanic at Hiway 13, and Alice is your friendly waitress at Bono's Restaurant. Their daughters, Dianne and Darlene, live in Edmonton and Marilyn makes her home in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Don and Judy Wilson

Don Wilson moved to the Camrose area from Cochrane, Alberta, in 1974 when he purchased the N.E. ¼ 20-48-20-W4 from Wilbur Thronson and the N.W. ¼ 21-48-20-W4 from Wesley Thronson. Don and his wife Judy have four children, who attend Hay Lakes School.

Oliver T. Wilson

Oliver T. Wilson and his wife filed on homestead land SW¼ 2-48-20-W4 in 1902.

They had two sons, Ralph, and Clifford who filed on the NW¼ in the same section, and one foster daughter, Hazel Hansen.

Cliff (as he was commonly known) was a catcher in the Pretty Hill ball team and also played in the Pretty Hill band.

In 1910 Cliff married Emma Rosendahl. They had two sons, Walter and Gordon.

Walter married Hazel Hansen. Some years later they moved to Spirit River where they were engaged in farming. They have three children. Walter and Hazel have retired in Red Deer.

In 1916 Ralph and Nannie Grundberg were married. They had four children but one little boy was fatally injured in a farm accident. In the early 1920's Nannie passed away. Ralph moved to Kelowna in 1934 or 1935.

In 1917 the family moved to Joffre area, south-east of Lacombe.

Cliff and Emma moved to Red Deer in 1947. They lived there until the time of their passing.

The above mentioned land is now owned by the

Con Winder

Ours is a Winder-Gill union, so let us first look at the origin of these families. The Winders emigrated from Halsingland, Sweden to Canada in 1901, with a son Eric, who eventually married Louisa Hoflin from Lake Demay, and moved to the SW18-49-20-W4 in 1927. In 1930, they sold same (Ernie Johnson farm) and eventually bought NE13-50-2--W4 north of Miquelon Lake in 1932. The land is still in the family. To their union were born Elsie, Hazel, Ethel, Vern, Ken, Con, Glen, Brian, and Larry. Eric passed away April 18, 1952. Vern was killed in a car accident July 20, 1957. Louisa moved to a house in Tofield, November 16, 1976 and still resides there. Con took his schooling at Spilstead. When that school was closed in 1958, he attended Tofield school for a couple of weeks and then quit. He ran a threshing team that fall and did odd jobs throughout the winter. On May 5, 1969, he started roughnecking for Baldwin and Knoll Ltd., a service rig company. In the late fall, he quit and worked on a drilling rig for a couple of months, and then he and a friend, headed for British Columbia for a sawmill job. Unable to get on at the sawmill immediately, and very broke indeed, his friends and relations had him chop wood for two weeks for his room and board. At the sawmill, he ran a green chain (which is piling lumber as it comes off the gang saw, and which literally keeps one on the run). He worked there for about two months and then came home on the train (his first and last ride) to be best man at his brother Ken's wedding. This was March 19, 1960.

Meanwhile, about eight miles north-east of the Winder farm, on NW 5-51-19-W4 another young couple, Gladys and Lawrence Gill, had been busy raising a family. Gladys was formerly a Waters. Her parents had come from England about 1905 and bought a homestead in the Lakeview area around 1907. They were finally able to prove it up, probably in 1913, but in the meantime, he had worked at what

ever jobs he could find in Edmonton, then known as Strathcona. Lawrence's Dad came from England and married a Nova Scotian. Lawrence was born at Malaga, Nova Scotia, in 1911, they moved to Darwell, and finally to NW 31-51-19-W4 (now the R. Wyllie Residence) Lawrence married Gladys on November 19, 1931 at St. Mary's Church, Edmonton. They had five children — Ernest, Calvin, Maxine, Allan and Gail. They still reside on the same quarter and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in a gala celebration at the Tofield Community Hall on November 15, 1981.

Gail spent her first three years at Lindbrook School but the school was then closed and it was a bus job to Tofield, where Grade XII was finally completed nine years later. I entered 4-H as soon as I was old enough, and my eight years in same will always be highlights in my life. What fun was Club Week at Vermilion and Olds Provincial Eliminations and the numerous County 4-H Bus trips. Johnny Moore was the leader; he held that job for thirty years; Don Woods now has the honors — he came up through the ranks the same time as I. I was also active in the Girl's Auxiliary of the Anglican Church, and many, many hours were spent riding.

While Con was home in 1960, his brother, with whom I attended school, arranged a blind date for Con and me. I'm not sure if it was our attraction for one another that kept Con from going back to British Columbia or not, but somehow or other, he never left Alberta. He went back to Baldwin and Knoll and soon had a drilling job — the youngest driller ever to



Con and Gail Winder's wedding, November 24, 1962. Left to Right: Kathie Dunn (Bride's cousin), Gail, Con, Glen Winder (Con's brother), Con's niece, Debbie Switzer, is on left front. Gail's niece, Pamela Gill, is on right.

be with them. On November 24, 1962, Con and I were united in marriage at the Holy Trinity Church, Tofield with Rev. Hammett, officiating. We purchased an 8' x 27' trailer and moved to Olds, after a two week honeymoon to Vancouver. Con promptly left me to work up in the Fox Creek area and I settled down to the joys of living in an unskirted trailer in the dead of winter. The fuel jellied off, pipes froze, the John froze, everything froze! In February Con moved the trailer to Edmonton with the help of my brother Calvin, as money was pretty scarce in our household. I lived in the Allendale Trailer Court and Con occasionally visited me. Finally in August, 1963, we moved to Swan Hills and set up housekeeping in earnest. On December 30, Dale Conrad, was born at the Barrhead hospital, sixty-five miles away from Swan Hills.

In August 1964, we moved to Edson as Con had a promotion to Tool-push, but the rig ran twenty-four hours a day so it was nothing for Con to be gone two or three days at a time. He would sleep in a shack at the rig or in his car or where ever he could catch forty winks. On January 17, 1966, Angela Jeannette was born at the St. Johns Hospital in Edson and due to cramped space, we found we had to purchase a 12' x 60' trailer. In June of 1968, we moved again to Fox Creek. Con did a bit of big game guiding on the side as we were in the horse business at that time. We were sixty-five miles from the nearest hospital again, but no difference did it make — September 5, 1969, Buddy Duane joined our family. We decided that it couldn't be too long before we had to leave the oil rat race, so thus it was in 1970 that we purchased 522½ acres at Andrew and along the North Saskatchewan River. Here we nearly lost our two youngest as we

had wrapped Angela and Buddy in blankets and laid them down for a sleep outside the camper, while we were in the old house dealing on the land. A fire of unknown origin started (we believe it was possibly a faulty camper heater, it had given trouble during the night and we had turned it off and placed it outside). A strong compulsion overcame me to check the kids and when I got to the door, all I could see was smoke. When we got to the kids, the fire had eaten at the blanket and burned through to Angela's leg. It had then awakened her and she had thrown the blanket and was out of the fire crying. Buddy lay surrounded by a perfect halo of fire, but safe and still sleeping. Angela suffered bad burns to her leg and will carry those scars for life, although time has certainly caused them to fade.

In June 1972, Con was promoted to Field Superintendent and thus involved in working out of Edmonton. We moved to a house on an acreage at Ardrossan and for a time rented out our trailer in Edmonton, but soon dispersed with it. Sure enough, another move, another baby, and on March 28, 1974, twenty-five miles from a hospital and after a month of terrible blizzards, which nearly drove my poor neighbor mad worrying about me, I finally gave birth to Douglas Kent at the Charles Camsell Hospital. In late May, 1975 we farmed out our family and with Con's brother Brian and wife Claudette, we made an unforgettable and truly enjoyable trip across Canada. Our last carefree moments for while as upon our return, a huge upheaval was shaking Baldwin and Knoll on August 15, 1975, Con was released and shortly thereafter, the company was dispersed. On October 1, 1975, after much soul-searching, Con and brother Glen, purchased one of Baldwin and Knolls' rigs, which was stationed in the Camrose area, and started their own business, C&G Oilwell Services Ltd. as Con didn't appreciate the drive every day, it was time to move again. Finally, we found a farm to our mutual liking and which was on the market, so in June, 1977, we moved to NW 29-48-20-W4 and SW32-48-20-W4 formerly owned by Ernest and Ethel Nordin, thus were in the Armena district.

In the fall of that same year, the men invested in another rig; Dale and Angela entered Armena 4-H. Dale soon found 4-H wasn't to his taste, but Angela carried on and Buddy started in 1979. Con and I also took on the formidable task of leaders for the club that same year. In 1980-81, the club entered in a Beef By-product Display and took first prize — \$500.00. The same year, the judge saw fit to place Buddy's steer as club champion and Angela's as reserve. In the heifer class, Angela took first and Buddy second. Were they happy!

In 1978, we had taken the family, and along with



Winder family, May, 1980. Back Row: Angela, Dale, Con. Centre: Buddy, Gail. Front Row: Douglas.

Grandma and Grandpa Gill, took a trip to Alaska. We rode the ferry from the tip of Vancouver Island and endured the seasickness to Prince Rupert. From there we went on to Haines Junction. The weather wasn't too co-operative, but the scenery was fantastic!

Con also plowed snow for the oil companies, in 1978 due to too many business pressures he sold same in 1979, but not before he had the misfortune to have bones broken in his left hand by a valve blowing off the unit. We bought our first Gelbvieh cattle in 1979, and liking them so well, we purchased an additional twenty one from Saskatchewan in the spring of 1980. In the spring of 1981, we decided we would never make it to the farm at Andrew, so sold it and purchased Rudy Selin's NW 1-49-20-W4. Con had Howard Anderson and Dennis Broen break the remaining eighty acres and we are in the process of turning it into pasture land. We are enjoying life in the Armena district, and believe it or not, our last move to date has not resulted in another Off-Spring!

Lorraine and John Wight by May Stavne

Lorraine and John were married in October, 1959. An autumn Indian Summer wedding was planned however, the weather-man played a trick on us and dumped a foot of snow over the landscape. A snowplow was needed to clear the church yard for parking.

Our crop was harvested in November that year. Our first hired man was young and hungry, which gave me ample opportunity to practise my new bride's cooking.

The early sixties were particularly dry in the Hughenden district; some dugouts in the pastures and springs in the coulees disappeared completely. A lot of the good hardy prairie wool found it hard to survive. When the wheat was harvested and sold these few years, it certainly graded No. 1 Northern Hard.

Our first baby was born four days late for a Christmas babe in 1961, but we named her Holly Gaylene anyway. We were privileged to care and love this dear little angel for three precious years.

With the arrival of David in May, 1963, the end of the drought was in sight. We received an inch of rain every week from June through August. David would sleep on the verandah while the bumblebees hummed in the lilacs and honeysuckle. I had lots of rainwater for diapers — what joy was mine.

Laurel was our first baby in our new house, with David a very proud three-year-old brother. A sister would be handy to have around when you needed someone to try out a new idea, such as swinging basket in the swing tree. How many times haven't I

gone running out to find someone hanging by a leg in a tree yelling for dear life.

Mark and Nelson were added to our family in the summer of 1970 and 1972. Two brothers two years apart can be both bane and blessing; what one doesn't think up, the other surely will. In spring it's baseball, summer means camp and music. In winter it's hockey. They both work at piano lessons if it's absolutely necessary and are in grades six and four at school.

Laurel is our high-schooler this year and was thrilled to make the basketball team and dutifully works at piano and allows herself to even enjoy it most of the time.

David took his high school at Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Outlook, Saskatchewan and his first year of university in Saskatoon. He is presently working at Stelco in Camrose hoping to put away enough funds to see him through his second year of university.

Our little hospital at Hardisty, like most others, is short of nurses. Many of us farm-wife nurses take our turn on duty.

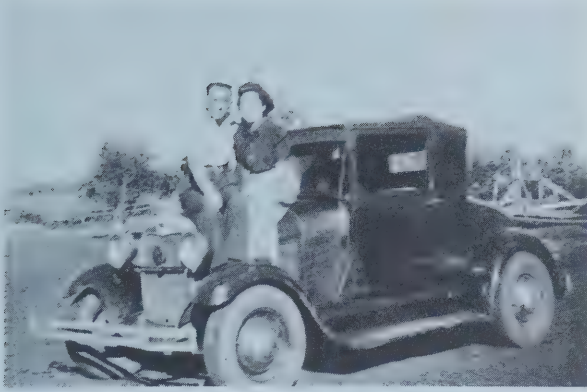
As with all who depend on the land, our lives are patterned by the rhythm of the seasons. After the frantic race against time in spring and summer, we are often saddened by the melancholy call of the cranes on their southern journey, yet we are always thankful for the harvest. The winter takes on a more orderly pace, cattle feeding, basketball, hockey games, and often seemingly endless periods of practice for the music Festival in March, and June exams with the return of the geese and swans to their flyway overhead. The joyous throb of spring takes over and we begin again the cycle as it has been since the beginning of time.

Henry Wolfe Family

M. Henry Wolfe, son of Michael and Paulina Wolfe, was born on July 8, 1923 in Warsaw, Poland. In 1929, Henry's parents, along with their five children, immigrated to Canada. Henry's first home in Canada was on a farm in the Nisku district. In 1936 the Wolfes moved to the New Sarepta district where they had purchased a farm.

Martha Ida (Lefty) Lecht, daughter of Gustav and Wanda Lecht, was born on May 30, 1927 in Hay Lakes and was raised on a farm in the New Sarepta district. Mr. and Mrs. Lecht had just recently arrived in the area after immigrating from Poland in 1927.

Henry and Lefty met in 1943 when they both were working for Lorne and Inez Wensel; Henry at trucking and Lefty at the store in New Sarepta. They were married May 16, 1947 at St. John's Lutheran Church in New Sarepta.



My car, 1945, Henry and Lefty.

They both quit their jobs with the Wensels after their marriage and went farming on the Wolfe home place. After “freezing out” the first year and “hailing out” the second year, they both had to go back to work for the Wensels. Henry continued to farm the home place and also rented an additional quarter of land. The third year they “hit it lucky” and were able to pay off all the debts. They even had enough left over to buy a used car!

In 1950 they were able to buy the home place from Henry’s parents. In 1951, they purchased their first home, a two room house in New Sarepta. Henry started working, in 1952, for the Edmonton Pipelines. On August 25, 1952 their son, Terence Henry, was born.

In 1959 they sold the farm and their house in New Sarepta and bought a farm, from Lars Malland, in the Armena area. Henry continued to work out so Chester and Judith Thronson farmed the land. Henry and Lefty milked some cows and planted large gardens, besides making many changes to their farm. In December of 1963 Henry quit working for Edmonton Pipelines.

After improving the farm considerably they moved, in the spring of 1964, to the farm they bought from Hazel Lyseng. It was at this time also that Henry began working in Camrose for Crawford and Co. (where he is still employed).

At the Lyseng farm, they went into more milk cows, young cattle, and some pigs. A lot of repair work and new building went into building up the farm to the Wolfe standards. Chester and Judith Thronson again farmed the land.

Due to Henry’s health, the farm was sold to Francis and Cory Spruyt. In 1966 Henry, Lefty and Terry moved to the home they bought in the Bailey Sub-Division.

In February of 1973, Henry and Lefty bought a franchise for Duraclean Carpet and Upholstery Care and started the business in Camrose and the sur-



Henry and Lefty Wolfe’s 25th Anniversary.

rounding area. Since Henry wasn’t interested in that type of work, it was Lefty’s hard work that built up the business to such a degree that she was no longer able to keep up to it. In 1979 she then sold the business to Dennis Gustavson, the present owner.

Because farming was in their blood and Henry’s health had improved, when the opportunity arose, they sold their home and moved back to the country. In 1973 they purchased the Alex Olson farm north of Camrose. They farm their own land and raise some



Terry, Bonnie, Bryce, and Dori Wolfe.

cattle — They both agree — “No more moving — at least for a while”!

Terry had his early schooling in Armena and later at Sifton School in Camrose. After school, weekends and holidays, Terry worked at the Trading Corral in Camrose, from 1967 to 1969, repairing motorcycles. After completing his Grade XII at Camrose Composite High School, he worked for a while as a partsman for Glambeck Motors. He then moved to Edmonton where he trained as a Nursing Orderly at the Department of Veterans Affairs for one year. In July, 1974 he transferred to the Rosehaven Care Centre in Camrose, where he is still employed.

While working at Rosehaven, he met and later married on November 30, 1974, Bonnie Jean Downey, daughter of Hazel and the late Hilmer Anderson, of Camrose. They have one son, Bryce Henry, born on December 30, 1976 and one daughter, Dori Jean, born on March 11, 1979.

Terry, Bonnie, Bryce and Dori are presently living on Terry's parents' farm in a mobile home. Terry and Bonnie own the eighty acres of land directly south of Henry's.

Henry and Gertrude Young

Henry Bertrum Young was born in 1894 and his wife Florence (Gertrude) Hope was born in 1891. Both were born and raised in Lennoxville, Quebec.

Gertrude was a seamstress in Lennoxville and owned her own business.

Henry and Gertrude were married March 28, 1921 and farmed in the Moes River, Quebec area. Then in 1922 they moved west and settled in the Duhamel district.

In 1927, Henry and Gertrude bought the S.E. quarter of 22-48-20, west of the fourth, nine miles



Henry Young and Gertrude Hope married 1921.

north of Camrose, and there they farmed for the remainder of their years.

The home quarter still remains in the family, with Louise their eldest daughter and George their youngest son still farming the land. George also spends much of his time trucking.

Henry and Gertrude also had Margaret, Gordon and Mildred, a total of five children.

Margaret, second eldest daughter of Henry and Gertrude, married Leonard Busenius in 1947 and farmed in the Hay Lakes district.

Mildred, their third eldest daughter, married Reg Fuller in 1950 and now farm on their dairy farm in the Duhamel district.



G. H. Young — This is the first plane I owned, a 1946 Aeronca Chief, and I had it for one year. Then in August, 1960, I bought a 1958 Champion Sky-trac. The D. E. C. hauled a load of 550 Hy-line day-old chicks home from Edmonton; one of the many jobs this plane was used for. At the present time I have a 1946 Stinson.





Young home.



Young's first car — 1928 Chev.



Young family. Victor, George, Gordon, Mildred, Margaret and Louise.



Mildred (Young) and Reg Fuller family.

Gordon, the eldest son, married Edith Fuller in 1951 and is now farming the quarter directly across the road from Henry and Gertrude's home quarter.

Louise, Margaret, Mildred and Gordon attended the Thronson school in the Armena district while George attended the Dinant School.

Henry and Gertrude had fifteen grandchildren.

Gertrude passed away in December, 1961 at the age of seventy years. Henry passed away in March, 1974 at the age of eighty years.

The Gordon Young Family

Gordon William Young was born in 1927 and is the eldest son of Henry and Florence (Gertrude) Young. He has three sisters — Margaret, Mildred, Louise, and one brother, George.

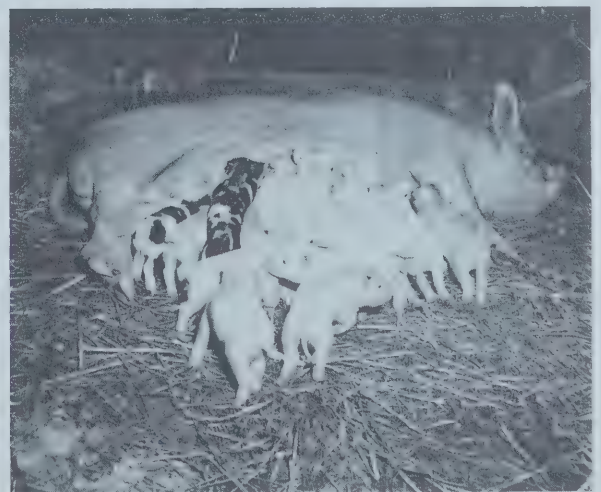
Raised in the Armena/Dinant district, he started attending the Thronson School northeast of Armena in 1933. He drove a team of horses to school which was three miles away.

Henry Young was a mixed farmer and Gordon often helped his father out in the field and with the chores.

In 1950, he bought from his father, the S.W. quarter of 23-48-20, W4, located nine and one half miles north of Camrose. He purchased this land for four thousand dollars. This quarter was formerly the home of Fred and Berna Whitcomb.

Gordon was married in 1951 to Edith Rosealind Fuller, from the Duhamel district. Since 1975 she has been working as a homemaker for the Preventive Social Services in Camrose, which recently changed its name to Camrose and District Support Services.

In 1955 they purchased another quarter of land, one half mile north of their home quarter, from Ole Roglien for eight thousand dollars.



A prize litter of pigs, Property of Gordon Young.



Family photo at marriage of Janice and Michael Young, 1975. Left to Right: Allan Young, Earl Dyck, Diane Dyck, Janice, Michael, Edith, Zorena, Gordon, Cheryl, and Larry Young.

Gordon and Edith have five children and six grandchildren.

Diane, their eldest daughter, was married in 1974 to Earl Dyck and they are now residents of Leduc, Alberta. Diane is currently a beautician at her own beauty salon in Leduc. They have one son, Cory.

Larry, their eldest son, was married in 1974 to Cheryl Meadahl. They are presently farming in the Round Hill/Ohaton district. Larry is employed in Camrose as an electrician. They have three children — Tammy, Shawn and Nichole.

Michael, their second oldest son, was married to Janice Gustavson in 1975. They are recent residents of Leduc and Michael is employed as an electrician there. They have one daughter, Carla.

Allen is Gordon and Edith's youngest son, and married Darlene McMann, in 1981. He is presently employed as a carpenter in Camrose where they reside. They have one child, Danielle.

Zorena is their youngest daughter, who currently attends the Kingman Junior High School and is still living at home.

In 1959, Gordon and Edith built their new home where they presently live and are still in the practice of mixed farming.

The Robert Young Family

by Thea Young

Robert Riddell Young was born at Hedworth, Durham, England on April 29, 1911. He was the eldest of seven children. In 1930 he immigrated, with his family, to Canada and settled on a farm near Vermilion, Alberta.

After six years of sweating and struggling for existence in a new country during the depression, the family left the farm to take up homesteads in the Lessard-Cold Lake area.

It was there he met Thea Hendrickson the local school teacher, from Hay Lakes, who was teaching school for \$600.00 per year. We were married October 13, 1937 and spent the first year building a log house, breaking new land among the rocks, and struggling for existence twenty-five miles from a railroad. Our only means of transportation was a little black mare, which we rode double, and a team of horses and a wagon.

In the spring of 1939 we purchased a quarter section of land, the SE 8-48-21, then in the Ellswick School District, and moved all our possessions with a four horse team and a sleigh. The move took eight days. Again there was a house to build and land to clear and break. With the cooperation of good neighbors and relatives a new start was made. We had to depend on neighbors for transportation because we did not own a car. By working hard to pay for the use of machinery to get a start, we managed to own our home before too many years.

We were blessed with two charming daughters, Marie Elaine born July 3, 1941, and Jean Elizabeth born December 20, 1945. Both girls attended Scandia Sunday School and were confirmed there. They attended Thordenskjold, Armena, and Hay Lakes schools before completing matriculation and graduating from Camrose Lutheran College.

Marie obtained a Bachelor of Education degree at



Robert and Thea Young, Marie and Jean, July, 1951.

the University of Alberta in 1964. She taught school at Bawlf and Edberg before leaving to teach school in New Zealand and Australia for three years. When she returned she was employed at the Earl Gray School in Calgary. She married Bruce Manning on March 2, 1968 and they had a son, Mark Graeme, born December 8, 1968. This marriage lasted about two and a half years so Marie has raised Mark by herself.

At present Marie is employed by the Summerland School District, exchange teaching at Mount Isa, Australia for one year; Mark is taking grade seven there. During the summer of 1980, Marie and Mark attended the Moscow Olympics. While they were there Mark spent a week in the children's hospital having an appendectomy. They received excellent care and consideration during their stay in the U.S.S.R. There were no doctor bills or charges for his hospital care.

On July 25, 1981, Marie married Gavin Swallow who is also teaching at Mount Isa. Gavin has a son, Karl, who is eight years old, Mark now has a father and a brother. They plan to make their home in Australia.

Jean accompanied her sister to New Zealand in 1965. When she returned, she attended the University of Calgary where she obtained her Bachelor of Education degree. She taught high school at Trochu before her marriage, August 26, 1972, to James Arrowsmith of Calgary. They have two children, Jan Christine born November 4, 1973, and Bart Andrew born November 24, 1975.

During the teacher shortage I resumed teaching duties and taught at Thordenskjold School for two and one-half years. Later I taught at Hay Lakes for twelve years. I was teaching grade one in the little old building when the new school was being built and continued teaching in the new building at various grade levels. I was on the staff throughout the principalships of Ben Waterman and Kenneth Dahl. In 1966 we sold our farm and moved to Patricia, Alberta. There I became the principal of the school and continued teaching until my retirement in 1972.

During our residence in the Armena-Hay Lakes area, Robert Young will be remembered as a very enthusiastic and active community worker. He was active among the young people in Skandia Church. He helped organize the First Armena Boy Scout Troup in 1947 and served as Assistant Scout Master. He enjoyed his work with the 4H Beef Club and was keenly interested in all the youth movements.

For several years he served on the church board for the Bethany Old Peoples Home. He was a very active member of the Bethany Building Committee when the hospital was planned and built. Robert Young worked diligently to organize the Armena

Rural Electrification Association and followed Herman Atema as their president. For a number of years he served as the President of the North Bittern Lake Telephone Company.

From 1953 to 1966 Mr. Young represented Division Seven in the Municipal District of Camrose #63, later to become the County of Camrose #22. During this time he was responsible for the upgrading and gravelling of many of the roads in that area. He was a member of the School Committee serving on the Salary Negotiating and Building Committees. He represented the County of Camrose on the following boards: The Battle River Planning Commission, The Bethany Hospital Board, The Agriculture Service Board, and various other committees.

Mr. Young was active in the formation of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. He was instrumental in the Lions Club of Camrose purchasing the property from Mrs. Berg and presenting the deed to the Department of Lands and Forests to form the nucleus of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. A local parks board was formed consisting of Harry Andreassen, Clifford Brager, and Robert Young. This advisory committee supervised the park until a full time warden, J. U. Erickson, was employed.

Mr. Young became so interested in provincial parks that he sold his farm in 1966 and went to work for the government at Dinosaur Provincial Park, Patricia, Alberta. He became the chief warden and remained there for six years.

We now reside at Summerland, B.C. Our retirement days are full of pleasant memories of our friends in Alberta and we always enjoy coming back to visit.

Sebastian Zeller Family

News of vast areas of unclaimed land was incentive to the Sebastian Zeller family to immigrate to Canada. They came to Alberta in 1914 from Pcochontas, Illinois, settling in the Armena district on the Staboe homestead located on SW 30-48-20 W4. Sebastian and Sophia brought their four children, Joseph, Annie, Sebastian Jr., and Helen. Prior to the move, their eldest daughter Sophia had married Louis Schrupf and they remained in the United States.

The children received their education at Thronson School, District #925. The small country school served all grades within one room. A list of Sebastian and Helen's fellow students, taught by Francis M. Nelson, during those years included: Inez Thronson, Bertha Skogman, Harold Rasmussen, Eric Hansen, Clifford Skogman, Helmar Skaret, Melvin Severson, Lennard Thronson, George Rasmussen, Rudolph Skogman, Lester Jornlin, Vernon Thron-

son, Olga Skaret, Eldie Edvold, and Helen Thronson.

Helen Zeller completed her education at the Camrose Normal School and later married Torger Haugen. They resided in the Tofield area, where Helen taught at Spilstead School for many years.

Sebastian Zeller Jr. purchased the family farm. He participated in many community activities, including road building and community harvesting. At that time the municipality had a plan which allowed area farmers to pay their land taxes by working on local road building. The value of the day's work varied according to the amount of equipment he supplied. Sebastian was one of many industrious farmers who participated in this plan.

In 1928, Sebastian married Rose Haspel from the Camrose East area. Rose was a registered nurse, having graduated from St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. Upon their marriage, she left hospital nursing but continued to practice her nursing skills in the community. This included acting as midwife for several neighbors.

Sebastian, after their marriage, purchased the NE 30-48-20 W4. That quarter section was the loca-



Rose Haspel graduated in 1928 from St. Mary's Hospital.



Shower for Rose Haspel at the Zeller home.

Back Row, Left to Right: Mrs. W. J. MacDonald and Bernice, Mrs. John Thronson, Mrs. Zeller Sr., Helen Zeller, Helen Lyseng, Adeline Lyseng, Helen Thronson, Petra Kringen, Mrs. Anton Thronson. Front Row: Mrs. John Erickson, the bride — Rose Haspel Zeller, Inez Thronson, Mrs. Theodore Thronson.



Wood sawing outfit.

tion of the Lundemo store, operated by John Waldum, which served a wide surrounding area as general store and post office. At the time of purchase the quarter had only nine acres of cleared land. Sebastian worked with axe and horses to clear more than one hundred acres, initially cultivating it with a breaking plow hitched to an eight horse team.

Rose and Sebastian had six children, Mary, Joan, Ruth, Anna, William, and Patricia. They attended the Thronson, Armena, Hay Lakes, Camrose High School, and St. Patrick's schools. The five daughters became registered nurses, graduating from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing at Vegreville. They continued their education, specializing in the fields of Psychiatry, Public Health, Teaching, Administration, Sciences, and Surgical Nursing.

Mary married Herman Gafka from the Vegreville district in 1959, where they established a successful



Five Zeller sisters — nurses. Top, Left to Right: Ruth, 1957; Joan, 1955; Mary, 1954. Bottom: Anna, 1958; Patricia, 1969.

dairy farm. Their five daughters are obtaining their education in Vegreville and at the College Saint-Jean in Edmonton.

In 1961, Joan married John MacDougall of

Champion where he continues a large ranching operation. Their five sons and two daughters are obtaining their education at Champion and Vulcan.

Ruth and Anna have continued their nursing careers, presently in Calgary and Brooks respectively.

William continued his education, in agriculture, at the Olds Agricultural College. Upon successful completion of his courses, he joined his father on the family farm. Through the years, William has continued mixed farming, as well as establishing a successful dairy farm. In 1976, he purchased SE 30-48-20 W4 from Rueben Moch, with the exception of a small acreage where the Moch family continues to reside.

Patricia continued her nursing career in Vegreville, returning home in 1976 to provide nursing care for her mother.

Throughout the years, Sebastian and Rose also provided a home for needy foster children. One of these children, Louis Christopher, was adopted in 1969.

Sebastian Zeller passed away in January, 1976, being predeceased by his father in 1937 and his mother in 1953, and his brothers and sisters.



Home

Dear plain old home, I bare my head to you,
And thank the Lord for what I took away
From your kind hand that unforgotten day
I sought the world. I took no wealth, 'tis true,
For luxury your children never knew —
Glad little heads that rose around your board;
But there the noblest virtues were adored,
Whose influence fell on your young hearts like dew,
I took a faith in God, I never lost —
And well I know how it has often been
An anchor when life's sea was tempest tossed
And if at wrong's appeal I e'er was seen
To hesitate — that time the touch was felt
Which I received when 'neath your roof I knelt.

Author Unknown

50th Anniversaries and Over



Alfred and Andrea Anderson's 50th Anniversary, June 20, 1956.



Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Anderson on their 65th Wedding Anniversary in 1930.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Anderson's 50th Anniversary on October 7, 1964.



50th Anniversary of Andrew and Sorine Boe, 1930.



Mr. and Mrs. Jim (J. B.) Erickson — 50th Anniversary in 1947.



Nels and Sophia's 60th Anniversary. Grace, Verneal, Lillian, Jean.



50th Anniversary of Sophie and Mike Famulak.



Helmer and Gunhild Hendrickson's 50th Anniversary.



Thore and Beret Grue's 50th Anniversary, 1931.



Oscar and Ruth Jasman's 50th Anniversary on November 11, 1974.



Judith and Glen Johnston, 50th Anniversary, 1981.



Carl and Ragna Lyseng on their 69th Anniversary. They did also celebrate their 70th Anniversary.



George and Gertie Lyseng's 50th Anniversary on December 16, 1976.



Golden Wedding celebration June 29, 1930. Mr. and Mrs. K. K. Lyseng. Seated, Left to Right: Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Hendrickson, Mrs. Lars Hong, Mrs. Eric Lyseng, Mr. and Mrs. Knut Lyseng, Mr. Albert Lyseng, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hendrickson.



Clarence and Thea Magneson on their 55th Wedding Anniversary in 1968.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Rosendahl's 50th Anniversary on December 2, 1964.



Elmer and Cecelia Olson on their Golden Anniversary October 19, 1980.



Esther and Oscar Sholds' 50th Anniversary, July 6, 1969.



50th Anniversary of Orvid and Inga Pederson.



John and Martha Thronsdon's 50th Anniversary, August, 1963.

Twins



Marlene and Maureen, twin daughters of Anne Klein Campsel.



Florence and Floreen Carlson (twins).



Minnie (Roth) Cole, George Roth (twins) taken about 1920.



Left: Elaine Marie Gafka. Right: Adele Christine Gafka. Twin daughters of Mary Zeller Gafka and Herman Gafka.



Shelley and Sheree, twin girls of Morley and Norma Jasman, age two years.



Budding musicians. Keith and Kenneth Klein.



Ronald Kristian (Ron) Jacobson, Richard Dennis (Rick) Jacobson. Twins, born September 21, 1958, to Ardith (Solheim) Jacobson.



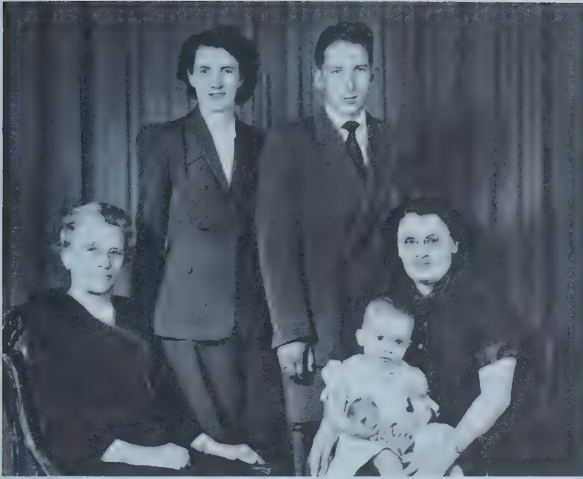
Jeanette and Lyle Klein.



Karen and Keith Johnston age 16 years, born February 8, 1950. Parents, Glen and Judith Johnston.



Rudolph Klein's two sets of twins in front of Adolph Pederson's bus.



Five separate twins. Orpha Kringen, Wayne Lyseng, Clara Kringen, Palma Lomnes holding Lynn Lomnes.



Donna and Donald 1949, aged 4. Twins of Adeline (Lyseng) and Martin Moe. Twins born in Bonnyville, Alberta.



Martha (a twin) and Emil Lyseng holding twin grandchildren, Karen and Kevin Nielson.



Agnes Matson and twin Alice Klein.



Lorraine (Stark) McDonald twins, Gail and Gordon in 1951. They live in Australia.



Jack and James, twin sons of Will and Selma Moore, born April 9, 1919 at their home.



Norma (Thronson) and Daryl Matthews. Top Row: Shane and Lennie. Bottom Row: twins, Paul and Gene.



Clifford Movold.



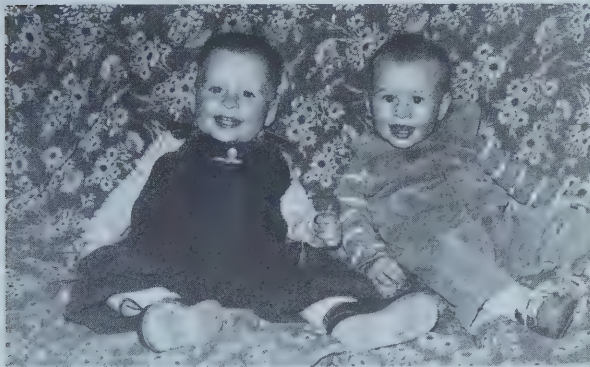
Pat and Peggy Marsh. Children of Joan (Stollery) and Dennis Marsh.



Gilbert Movold.



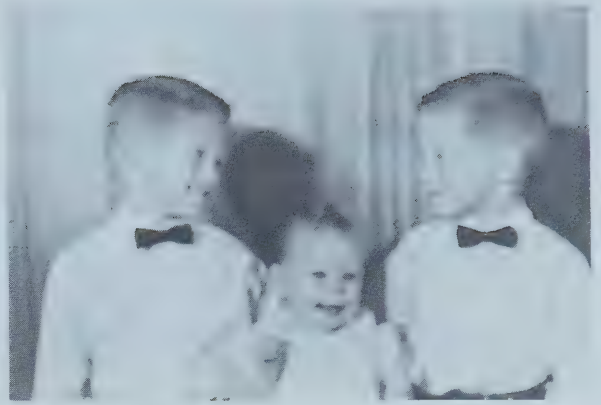
Grandma Olson and two sets of twins. Iver's twins, Ricky and Vicky, holding Palmer's twins, Grace and Gloria.



Twins, Rebecca and Oona Cooley/Olson age 1 year in 1978. Twin daughters of Byron and Nancy Cooley/Olson.



Paul and Philip Otteson, twin sons of Dorothy and Harold Otteson, age 5 yrs.



Archie and Lois Shold's twins, Murray and Clayton, and sister, Aimie.



Billy and Tommy Stollery. Children of Bert and Mar Stollery.



John and Joan Stollery. Children of Bert and Mar Stollery.



Caroline (Roth) Stark, twins, Dora and Donald in 1929.



Larry and Janice Thronsdon, born April 1, 1939. Children of Vernon and Violet Thronsdon.



Terrence Marvin Thronsdon, twin son of Raynold and Olive Thronsdon, was born September 9, 1938. His twin brother lived scarcely three months. It is interesting to note that Terry's wife, the former Lorna Oswald, is also a twin. Her twin sister, Lorraine, is married to Larry Johnson, a close friend of Terry's from his University days.



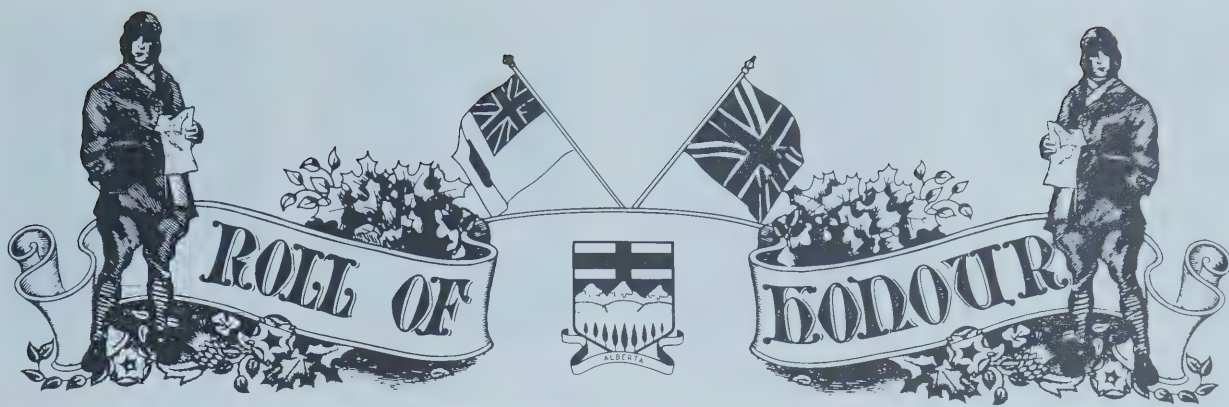
Three sets of twins. Billy and Tommy Stollery, Donald and Donna Moe, Karen and Carol Olson.



Two sets of twins — a wagon load. Larry and Janice Thronsdon, Joyce and Jean Skogman.



Dwayne and Edwin Vikman.



World War I



Nels Grue — 1918.



Henry and George Hendrickson.



Abel Lyseng and Martin Hendrickson.



Ole Lyseng 1895-1918.



Arnt Moe, World War I.



Arthur Movold.



Peder Pederson, World War I.



Henry Rosendahl, World War I.

World War II



Mike Blink, World War I.



Albin Crofts enlisted March, 1941.



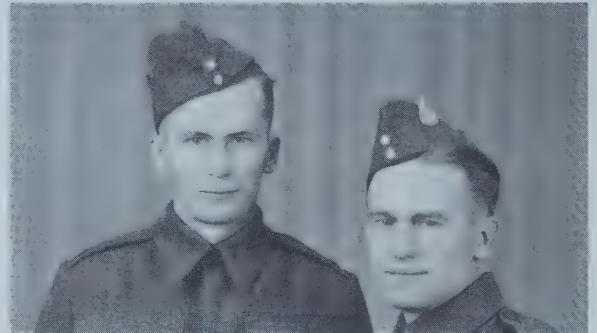
Donald Crofts killed in Normandy Invasion, June 8, 1944, D-Day.



Arthur Davidson, Reg. #M 448 228, Edmonton Fusiliers.



Carsten Davidson.



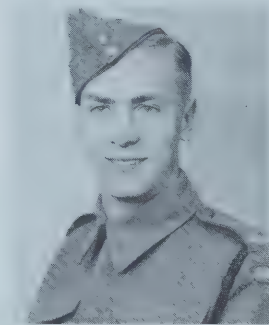
Andy (Andrew) Erickson, Herman Erickson enlisted 1939.



Stanley Erickson enlisted 1944.



Vernon Eriksson.



Art Falconer, World War II.



Sherman Forre, World War I — 1943.



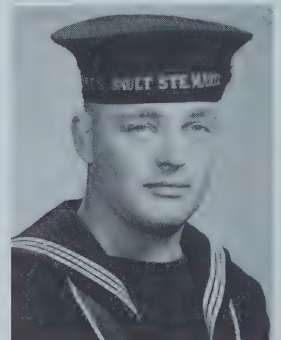
Lester Jornlin in U.S. Navy uniform.



Lloyd Grahn, World War II.



Sten Gunderson, World War II.



Bruce Hendrickson was in the Royal Canadian Navy, 1953-1958.



Richard Lyseng World War II.



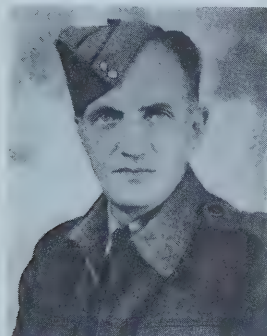
Rudy Magneson in armed services during World War II, 1942-1946.



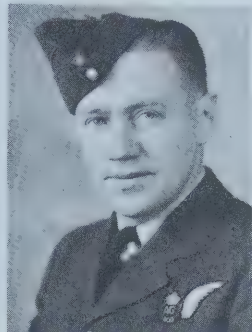
Harvey Moore, World War II.



James Moore was in the Royal Canadian Air Force, 1941-1942.



Gilbert Movald.



Millard Nesvold, World War II.



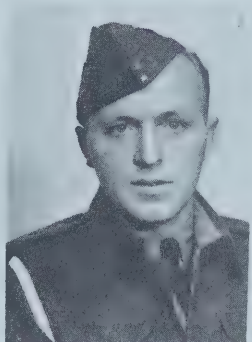
Emory Norvik.



James Olafson, son of Olaf and Lena (Movold).



Frank Olson, 1942 — R.C.A.F.



Palmer Olson, World War II, 1943.



Rudolph Olson, World War II.



Edvin Palm, W.W. II.



Ove Pederson, World War II.



George Rasmussen.



Paul and Olaf Rolseth, 1942.



Allan Wilfred Schielke —
1943-1946.



Elsie, Gordy, and Julie Shold, 1944.



Reg. Stapley W.W.II, 1941-
1946.



Corporal Beverly Stover.



Morris Thorndson and Phyllis Thorndson.



Wilbur Thronson.



William (Bill) Wickland (on
right) L. A. C. Wickland WM
43218 1949-1953.

God Bless Our Lads

"God bless our lads" in air, on land, and sea!
Full well we know how dear they are to Thee.
When'er they go, whatever they may dare,
God ever keep them in Thy gracious care.

"God guard our lads" by night as well as day,
For we, at home for them will ever pray
That war and strife and enmity may cease,
And Thou wilt send us Everlasting Peace.

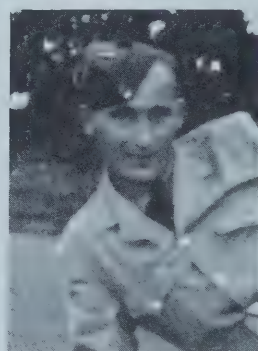
"God guard our lads", oh keep them ever near!
Make strong their faith and drive out all their fear;
Give them a vision of Thy saving love,
That nothing in this world can ever move.

"God guard our lads", and though just now they
roam,

Grant us our prayers and bring them safely home.

"God bless our foes" and cause their eyes to see,
That peace, alone, can only come from Thee.

E. Sparrow
Cardiff, England



Dave Willisko stationed in
Vancouver — World War II.

Historical Documents

Contract No. 14719

INTERIM RECEIPT.

LAND DEPARTMENT.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

F. T. GRIFFIN,
LAND COMMISSIONER.

Winnipeg, June 3rd 1901

Received from John E. Olson
the sum of Seventy-one ⁹⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars,
as first payment on NW 1/4 of Section 31 Township 47 Range 20 W 4 Mer.
160 acres at \$3 per acre, this being an interim receipt, subject to the conditions
of the Company and pending completion of Agreement for the purchase of said land.
\$71.90

Fred. T. Griffin
per EC
LAND COMMISSIONER.

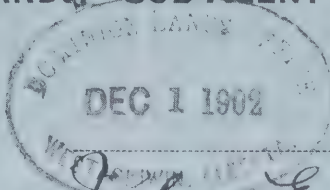
Receipt from C. P. R. Co.

DOMINION LANDS—SUB-AGENT'S RECEIPT.

No. 11957

25⁰⁰ A.C.

\$ 100 [^]/_x



TEMPORARY VOUCHER,
WHICH MUST BE RETURNED IF ENTRY
IS GRANTED.

Received from John E. Olson
25⁰⁰ A.C. [#]/₁₀₀ Dollars,
for homestead entry fee & improvements on
S W 1/4 of 28-47-20 W. 4 M.
provided this Land is open to Entry.

Witness,

Signed,
P. A. Micaelon
Sub-Agent. h

Agency Receipt No.

No. 40011

DOMINION



LANDS.

Cash, \$ 15⁰⁰
Scrip, \$ _____
Total, \$ 15⁰⁰



Received from John E. Olson
of Bitters Lake, Alta.
the sum of 15⁰⁰ Fifteen Dollars,
being for payment of Improvements

on S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$
of Section 28 in Township 47 Range 20
W. 4th Meridian.

A. M. Ormiston
Agent of Dominion Lands.
Senior Assistant

Receipt from Dominion Lands for John E. Olson.

No. 52718

DOMINION



LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 9246



Agency,

190

I Certify that I have received from

Ole Rosendahl

the sum of 92 Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for 72. 20

Quarter of Section 34 Township 47 Range 20

West of 4th Meridian, and that the said Ole Rosendahl

is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

NOTE—All minerals existing on or under the lands herein described, are reserved to His Majesty.

Amurquay

Local Agent

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Ole Rosendahl's Interim Homestead Receipt.

FORM K.

This Certificate is not valid unless countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or a Member of the Dominion Lands Board.

47703

Certificate of Recommendation for Homestead Patent.

Department of the Interior,

Dominion Lands Office,

Edmonton June 8th 1905

I Certify that Olé Rosendahl

who is the holder of a Homestead Entry for North West 1/4

of Section Number 34 Township 47 Range 20

W of the 4 Meridian, has complied with the provisions of the law required to be conformed to, in order to entitle him to receive a patent for such Homestead, and that I have recommended the issue of such patent.

Countersigned at Ottawa, this 11. th
day of August, 1905

J. Greenway
Commissioner of Dominion Lands.

A. J. Harman

Local Agent.

Certificate of Recommendation for Homestead Patent.

Dominion Lands. Sub-Agent's Receipt.

No. 11072 OCT 1 1900 WESTASKEWIN, ALBERTA. \$ 10 00

I Received from Henry Jasman By Apt

Five Dollars

for H^o entry. NE 1/4 = 24 = 47 = 21

last fee

Subject to approbation

Witness, [Signature] Signed A. J. Harman Sub-Agent.

Henry Jasman receipt.

"Any person to whom such written permission to leave Canada has been granted shall carefully preserve the same and keep it always about his person. —(Ss. 3, Sec 1, Order-in-Council 1433)"

Permit to leave Canada on or before the 7th day of Dec, 1917, is granted to Harry Harrison
for S. Canada
Canadian Immigration Inspector.

of the Son of Man
(If town or city give street address)

say that I was born at Norvik, Russia on the 24

day of July, 1855, that I am a (an)

Canadian (subject) (citizen) by (birth)

(naturalization); that I have resided at the above address for 16 years

....., that I am personally known to and refer for identification to:—
residence) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Residence) J. P. Luyke of Camrose, Alta.

Las Piz of Camacho, Asta

Joe Burgess of Cameron Alta

Hylocichla of *Cinclus alba*

that I desire permission to leave Canada to go to America, Italy, etc.
for the purpose of visiting my son.

that I expect to be absent from Canada, or two months (Length of absence)

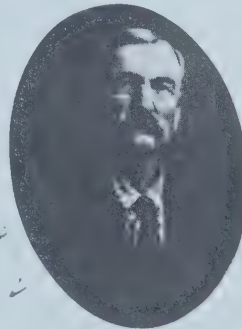
My height is 5' 9"; my weight is 170 lb

My eyes are blue; my hair is gray.

My occupation is farmer

The attached photograph is a good likeness of
me taken one (months) (days) ago.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and correct and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.



Declared before me at Cherbourg in the Province of Belmonte

this 29th day of June, 1973

Henry Lammie
Signature of Applicant.

Notary Public, J.P., Commissioner

I have been personally acquainted with the above mentioned applicant for a period of _____(years) (months). I recognize the above attached photo as a true likeness of him. I believe the statements which he makes above to be correct and have seen him in my presence attach his signature on the same line on which my own appears.

Henry Lassman
Signature of Applicant

Signature of Bank Manager, Chief of Police, Clergymen
or Dominion Government Officer

\$ 35⁰⁰/₄₀ Camrose Alta. July 30 1909
(Town) (Date)

On or before the first day of Dec 1909, for value received,

I promise to pay to the **International Harvester Company of America**
(A Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Wisconsin)

or order, the sum of thirty five and 40/100 DOLLARS
at the office of the Company at Calgary, Alberta, with interest from the date hereof until maturity at 7 per cent. per annum and at 10 per cent. per annum after maturity until paid.

Given on account of price of one Big 4 McCormick mower
The property in and the title to the goods above mentioned, which I hereby agree to buy, shall remain in the Company, and shall not pass to me until full payment of the price thereof, and all obligations given as security therefore.
If I sell or attempt to sell the undermentioned land which I own, or if I make default in payment of this note or any other note or obligation given on account of the said price, or if the Company shall deem itself insecure, the whole amount of the said price and interest thereon and all obligations and notes given therefor shall forthwith become due and payable, and the said Company may forthwith, without notice, presentment or demand, take action against me therefor; and the said Company may at its option take possession of the said goods and sell the same at private sale or public auction, the proceeds, less expense, to be applied on the debt, all of which shall be without prejudice to the rights of the said Company to collect the balance remaining unpaid which I agree to pay forthwith and for which action may be taken against me by the said Company. I agree that the said goods shall be at my risk as to damage or destruction from any cause, and that I will pay the said price therefor and interest thereon and all obligations given therefor, notwithstanding that the said goods may become damaged or destroyed.

The land above referred to and which I own is Sec. No. 37 Township No. 4 Range No. 20 in the Province of Alberta.
(Insert what part of section)

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED in the presence of

W. M. Maggan
Witness to Signature.

Clas Pedersone
Post Office Camrose Alberta.

Fill out all blank spaces except Number.

Signatures by mark must be witnessed.

If name is foreign or illegible, write it plainly in margin.

\$ 35⁰⁰ Camrose Alta. July 30 1908
(Town) (Date)

On or before the first day of Dec 1908, for value received,

I promise to pay to the **International Harvester Company of America**
(A Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Wisconsin)

or order, the sum of thirty five and 40/100 DOLLARS
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Given on account of price of one Big 4 McCormick mower
The property in and the title to the goods above mentioned, which I hereby agree to buy, shall remain in the Company, and shall not pass to me until full payment of the price thereof, and all obligations given as security therefore.
If I sell or attempt to sell the undermentioned land which I own, or if I make default in payment of this note or any other note or obligation given on account of the said price, or if the Company shall deem itself insecure, the whole amount of the said price and interest thereon and all obligations and notes given therefor shall forthwith become due and payable, and the said Company may forthwith, without making presentment or demand, take action against me therefor; and the said Company may at its option take possession of the said goods and sell the same at private sale or public auction, the proceeds, less expense, to be applied on the debt, all of which shall be without prejudice to the rights of the said Company to collect the balance remaining unpaid which I agree to pay forthwith and for which action may be taken against me by the said Company. I agree that the said goods shall be at my risk as to damage or destruction from any cause, and that I will pay the said price therefor and interest thereon and all obligations given therefor, notwithstanding that the said goods may become damaged or destroyed.

The land above referred to and which I own is Sec. No. 37 Township No. 4 Range No. 20 in the Province of Alberta.
(Insert what part of section)

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED in the presence of

W. M. Maggan
Witness to Signature.

Clas Pedersone
Post Office Camrose Alberta.

Fill out all blank spaces except Number.

Signatures by mark must be witnessed.

If name is foreign or illegible, write it plainly in margin.

Promissory notes.

[illegible]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CANADA

Land Patents Branch,

Ottawa OCT 7 1916

SIR:—

I beg to inform you that a patent for *1/4 Sec. E. 1/4*
of Section 22 in Township 59
Range 12 West of the 5th. Meridian,
Less Roadway. bearing date the *29th. August. 1916*
has been issued in your name, and that
it has been forwarded to the Registrar of the Land Registration
District of *North Alberta,*
who will issue the certificate of title upon receipt of your
application to him therefor, and upon payment of the proper fees,
if any.

For this purpose please communicate with that official,
giving him your full name and your Post Office address. His address
is The Registrar, Land Titles Office, *Edmonton, Alta.*

Your obedient servant,

N. O. COTÉ,

Controller

To *Adolph Martinus Moe, Esq.,*

Halley,

Alberta

This is the document to show that Adolph Moe had proved his
homestead near Whitecourt and could apply for title.

Pot-Pourri

People



Note the coats! All spruced up for the photo! Simon Grue, Tommy Movold, Iner Broen.



Carl and Carrie Lyseng, Grandma Rosendahl, Angelina, Gladys, Mabel, Claudia, Ruby.



Cooks at a wedding. Mrs. Severt Kringen, Mrs. Staboe, Mrs. Thore Grue.



Mrs. Thore Grue, Mrs. Andrew Larson, Mrs. Marit Moe.



Cowgirl! 1925 Style. Josephine in Edwin's outfit.



How cute! Gertie Moe and Inga Movold.



Pals — Robert and Dick.



Two teachers from Armena School, 1944. Miss Symington and Miss Miller the Principal.



Vera Braden on farm north of Camrose.



Mrs. John Erickson and Mr. John Erickson, Mr. Severt Kringen on binder.



Back Row: Adolph Moe, Anton Thronsdon, ?, Obert Kjelstad. Centre Row: Happy Jack, John Erickson, Theodore and Thorvald Thronsdon. Front: ?, Johnny Jevning.



Esther, Claudia, Elsie, daughters of Edwin, Carl, and Emil Lyseng (respectively).

Parties



Party for Mrs. Hatfield's niece, Dorothy Spinny held at Hatfields. Back Row, L.-R.: Mildred Hallgren, Eldie Broen, Clara and Petra Kringen, ?, Velma Jornlin, holding Lorne Broen. Front: Petra Kringen, Ruby Thronsdon, Mrs. Nordin, Mr. Hatfield, Mrs. Jornlin, Dorothy Spinny.



Farewell party for Carlsons, March 15, 1929. Left to Right, Back Row: Bertina Skaret, Mrs. Carl Anderson, Mrs. Anton Thronsdon, Mrs. Nels Grue, Mrs. Lou Evers. Center Row: Mr. Carlson, Lavern Anderson, Mrs. Theo Thronsdon, Mrs. Bill Skaret, Mrs. Wideman, Mrs. Ole Skaret, Mrs. Jornlin, Helen Wideman, Inez Thronsdon. Front Row: Erik Severson, Raymond Jornlin, Mr. Wideman, Irene Anderson, Philip Anderson, Theodore Thronsdon, Clifford, Raymond and Floreen Carlson. Each family brought a hen to give the Carlsons a start in chickens.



Community gathering at Lars Loveseth's.



Family and friends. Minech Jornlin, Mrs. Thore Grue, Mrs. Skaret, Thorvald Thronsdon, Julia Dahl, Nils Lyseng, Mrs. Nils Lyseng, Pauline Kringen, Ida Thronsdon, Sophia Jornlin, Ingvald Dahl, Mary Thronsdon, Martha Thronsdon, Matilda Thronsdon, Petra Kringen, Clara Kringen, Rodney Thronsdon, Theodore Bockey.



Mrs. Erik Severson, Mrs. S. Kringen, Mrs. Rasmus Rasmussen, Mrs. Thore Grue and Mrs. Ole Skaret.



K. K. Lyseng's 50th Anniversary June 29, 1930.



Farewell party for Henry Rosendahl before leaving for Army, W.W.I.



School chums, Thronson School. Back Row: ?, Petra Kringen, Mary Thronson, Pauline Kringen. Front Row: Martha Thronson, Clara Kringen, Anna Watland, Josephine Rice.

Entertainers



Armena boys trio: Gertie Lyseng, Kenneth Rasmussen, Douglas Paulson, Orin Lyseng.



Nichols Band. Marilyn, Norman, Allan, Vernon.



Majorettes.

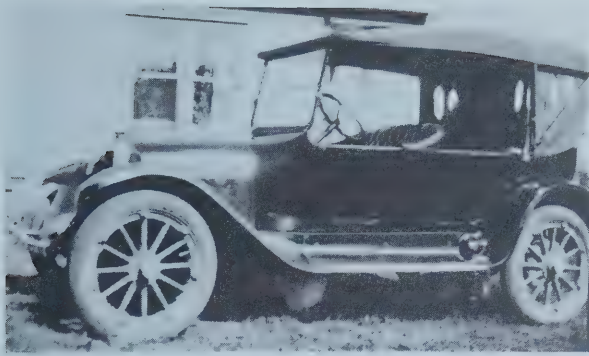
Fun



Figure Skaters. 1) Ruth Jornlin, 2) Inez Thronson, 3) Velma Jornlin, 4) Florence Watland, 5) Hazel Craney, 6) Lois Craney.



How about a swim? Severt Kringen behind Ralph Hatfield, Pauline Kringen in front, Mrs. Fannie Hatfield, Petra and Clara Kringen. Camping at Miquelon Lake after driving up in a lumber wagon. It rained torrents over night so they had to abandon their tents and find refuge in an empty shed. Mr. Kringen went home in the morning to do chores, then returned for more camping.



Carl E. Lyseng's Ford.



Camping at Pigeon Lake. Frank Craney and John Thronson families.



Inez being entertained by Eldie and Helen.



Winter transportation.



"Jule-buk" — During Christmas week people went from house to house, "Christmas Ghosting". Treats would be given and a new member joined the gang. Sometimes it was hard to guess who was behind the "get-up". Picture taken in front of Emil Lyseng's house.



Elmer Olson family coming to Alma's birthday, May 4, 1956.



Nels Erickson's boys rowing on the big slough with water tank as a boat.



Plane over MacKenzie Airport, 1960.



Fly-in Breakfast at MacKenzie Airport, 1960.



A break down — Gladys Rasmussen and Jean Thronson.



Relaxing and chatting. Vera Thronson, Florence Watland, Helen, Vernon, and Chester Thronson, Albert Hanson and Wilbur Thronson.



Water — witchers Lawrence Severson, Vernon Stavne and Chester Thronson.



Many hands make*. Thorvald Thronson, Ole Rosendahl, Carl Anderson, Anton Thronson, Minech Jornlin, John Thronson (smoke from black-smith forge blurs John and Minech).



Booth at first Camrose Jaywalkers Jamboree, 1958. Esther Shold, Violet Rasmussen, Ruby Paulson, Alice Skalin, Bernice Erickson, Esther Rosland.



Quilting at Jenny's. Jenny Grundberg (hiding), Mrs. Anton Thronson, Mrs. Falkenberg, Mrs. Lou Evers, Mrs. Carl Anderson, Mrs. Theo. Carlson.

Disaster

Point of Interest 1974

submitted by Alice Sletten

These pictures were taken by Johnny Cail, of the road north of Camrose in the spring of 1974.

This was my first impression of the roads north of Camrose in the spring. We had to travel about nine or ten miles around to go to town.

The stakes on picture 2 will give you an idea of where the road actually was. The challenge was to drive and stay between them. Spike and I were nearly initiated to a natural water bed, when our truck chose to leave the guide lines. Freeman Lofgren came to our rescue with his tractor and saved us from a watery bed.

The picture of the road a short drive north of Camrose, in the spring of 1974, will really give you an insight into the great improvements a few years can make.

Of course this is not an old-times picture, but who knows — it might be some day.



First bridge north of Camrose, Spring, 1974.



Winter of 1973-1974 at the Carlson farm.



1966 — Train wreck on C. N. track east of Earle Erickson's. Train was carrying iron ore from Pine Point.



Chester Thronson getting feed for his cattle, April 25, 1956.



Chester Thronson farm — spring of 1956.



Anton Olson's car hit by train October 30, 1937. Anton escaped unharmed. The day was also Anton's birthday.

Farming Spring



Loveseths' Van Slack 24-inch brush breaker. Ed Nepstad and Ivor Saugan on plow Loveseths on steam engine.



Carl Lyseng's rig — 1925.



Breaking land on the Johan Grundberg farm.



Road grader and plow "Courtesy Camrose Museum".



Seeding in the dusty thirties on the William Atema farm.

Summer



Simon Grue haying with a swing stacker in 1920's.



Chicken feeding time — Mrs. Theo Carlson.



Food for the table. Alfield Franzen, Helen Thronson.



Slip used for moving dirt in roadwork "Courtesy Camrose Museum".



Road grading. Lars Loveseth and Alvin on engine. Elvin Fowler on first grader, Councilmen.



Grinding coffee? and what else? Edwin Ditmanson, Ludvig Lyseng.

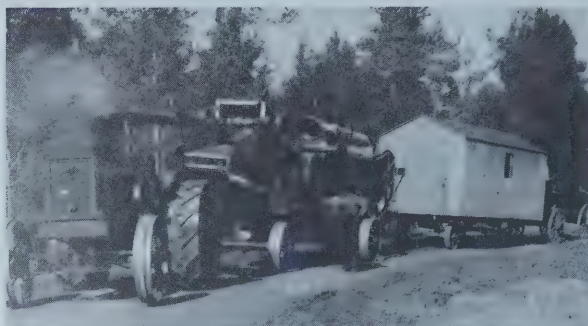
Fall



Threshing scene in 1930.



1929 Threshing Crew. Sebastian Zeller, Ed Nordin, Egil Lien, Ralph Hatfield, Dick Olson, John Olson, Lars Maland, Lester Jornlin and Raymond Jornlin at back.



Fowler's threshing outfit about 1926.



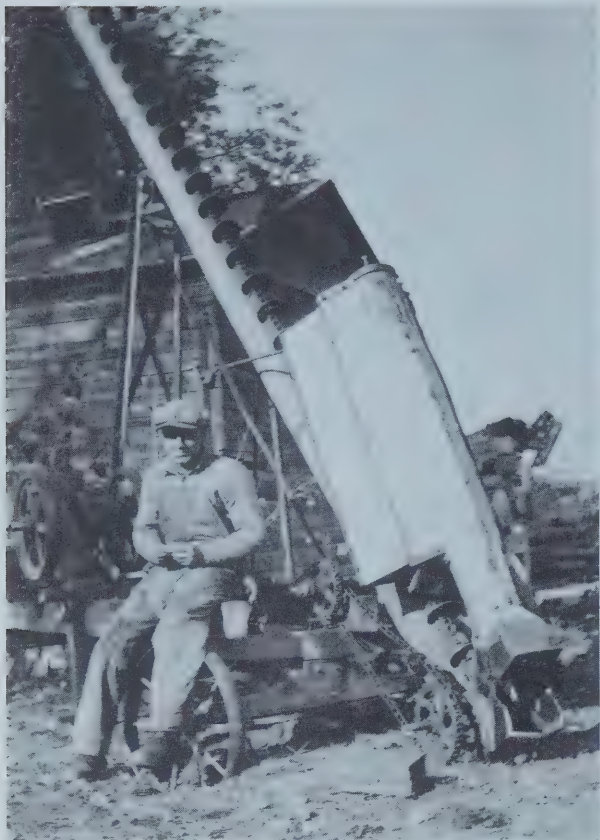
Throndson Brothers' threshing rig — 1917. Anton Throndson, Minech Jornlin, Theodore Bockey, ?, Theodore Throndson, Carl Anderson.



Sunday visitors inspecting the crop.



Erickson's threshing rig.



Up goes the grain! Grain elevator operator during threshing was Johan Wiggen.



Guess what?



Threshers, 1927. Einar Broen, Ralph Hatfield, ?, Roy Forsen, ?, Sebastian Zeller, Tony Broen, ?, John Erickson.

Winter



Taking up ice blocks out of Miquelon Lake in 1920-1921 and hauling them home to our "ice-houses". Usually several farmers worked together on the "ticklish, icy job". The first team hitched to the bob sleds and grain box is my farm horses, Lulle and Lady; the other outfit I don't know. That team has been unhitched from the sleighs and was used to hoist the ice blocks out of the water. M.H.



Oscar says "Coffee is ready". Ditmanson brothers sawing wood.



Wood sawing at John Thronsdon's. John, Richard, William MacDonald, Theol Watland and Nelvin T.

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